

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.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 2nd

**THURSDAY, 3rd
FRIDAY, 4th**

**SATURDAY, 5th
SUNDAY, 6th
WEDNESDAY, 9th
FRIDAY, 11th**

SATURDAY, 12th

**SUNDAY, 13th
MONDAY, 14th
TUESDAY, 15th
WEDNESDAY, 16th
FRIDAY, 18th**

**SATURDAY, 19th
SUNDAY & MONDAY, 20th & 21st
SATURDAY, 26th**

**USY BONFIRE
LUNCHEON WITH RABBI
LAG B'OMER
LUNCH OUT WITH RABBI
PLUGGED-IN SHABBAT
JUNIOR CONGREGATION
KADIMA FIELD DAY
LUNCHEON WITH RABBI
LUNCH OUT WITH RABBI
FAMILY SHABBAT
BIRTHDAY SHABBAT
JUNIOR CONGREGATION
DALET SERVICE
LUNCH & LEARN
FIRST ROUND ON RABBI
YOM YERUSHALAYIM
SISTERHOOD BOARD
RABBI'S LECTURE
LUNCHEON WITH RABBI
LUNCH OUT WITH RABBI
GIMEL CLASS DINNER & SERVICE
LATE-NIGHT SHAVUOT STUDY SESSION
SHAVOUT
SUNDAES ON SATURDAY**

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

We're going to Israel with Rafi!



I watched and wondered what was happening. I have never seen my son do this. He is in shul every Shabbat, most of his time is spent “exploring” B’nai Tikvah with his buddies. Rafi and Bashe pray daily in school, but this was different. I was blown away. Rafi seemed to be transported.

Teaching our children to become b’nai mitzvah is an awesome responsibility, one which you know that I savor. It is the best time of my working day, every day. Over the past couple of years, the point in time at which I prepared my own children along side yours has been surreal; it also continues to be special and emotional. Teaching the children that my kids are growing up with has heightened my sense of the reality of my mission. Love God, love the Jewish people, and love Israel.

God, the Jewish people, and Israel, as you have followed my journey, are my repeating themes. My efforts at B’nai Tikvah afford me the opportunity to endeavor to fulfill these meaningful objectives; at least that is my intention. And if you follow my thread you know that I often refer to the verse from Pirkei Avot ***You are not obliged to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it.*** Regardless of our accomplishments, our intentions, and their results, we are implored to persist, move forward, to learn more, and to keep our mission relevant.

This month, Rafi will become a bar mitzvah, a special event in our family’s life. Rafi is the youngest of his cousins, last to become a b’nai mitzvah. Rafi is great kid; this is something that I often say with conviction about my students, so I think it is okay to say it about my own son too.

When Stacey and I brought Bashe and Rafi to Israel in 2012, we opened a door that Rafi truly yearned to explore. I wrote in Hakol, *“Rafi’s moment at the Kotel was what the legendary Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heshel refers to as “Radical Amazement.” Pay attention, cherish these exquisite moments, slow down, and you too may become inspired.” And he did and he has remained inspired.*

My perspective remains that we have built a foundation at B’nai Tikvah that can lead our Jewish community in profound and meaningful ways. We are a social bunch and love to celebrate together and comfort each other during difficult times. We also offer speakers and concerts because we understand that we must participate and understand Judaism outside of our personal comfort zone.

As you know, this summer we are returning to Israel with you. Our multi-generational group of 40 will include four families with children in Bashe’s & Rafi’s religious school classes and three grandmothers who are going to experience Israel as a family for the first time.

Rafi has paid attention. He still takes his time to hang out with his buddies in shul, especially Corey, but mostly, he embraces his passion for his connection with God, his B’nai Tikvah, Hatikvah, Kadima, & Ramah friends, his Jewish people. Israel will always be Rafi’s yearning and it is our desire and responsibility to nurture our children.

Dear God, Draw us Closer

Help us convert our convictions into conduct and our commitments into deeds.

Help us to narrow the gap between our principles and our practices, between our aspirations and our actions.

Worship Adonai with Joy and 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

Shavuot duties of the heart



We find ourselves now at that time of year when we count the omer, marking the days from Passover -- the time of our political liberation from Egypt -- to Shavuot, the time of our spiritual liberation at Mt. Sinai. The Torah, in its wisdom, institutionalized the link. It underscored that political liberation, however important, is incomplete without the accompanying spiritual liberation. In addition, counting the days brings with it a sense of anticipation, a rising excitement about the gift of Torah we receive(d) on Shavuot.

What, exactly, does spiritual liberation mean? Considering how important the Torah tells us it is, you would think that the answer would be obvious to us all. But obvious it is not. There is a reason for our lack of clarity on this point,. It goes back to a pernicious misreading of Judaism that a generation ago was widely preached from the pulpits, taught in the classrooms, and shared around the dinner table. The slogan of the time was "Judaism doesn't care about what you believe. It cares about what you do."

This was an incredibly useful (and, truth be told, smug) fantasy. It dodged all the tricky questions about G-d that might arise after, say, the Holocaust. It gave us a leg up on our Christian neighbors who believed all sorts of "crazy" things such as virgin birth (as if we didn't believe anything "crazy," such as G-d parting the Red Sea). And it was pretty easy to align Jewish ethical practice (say, the 10 Commandments), with American values—and in the 1950's, what could possibly be more important than that?

A Judaism that looked like the Boy Scouts with holidays was the ticket of admission to American society.

But an enormous amount was lost in the process. Not least, any sense of spiritual quest, of searching, of dynamism. This was a Judaism without soul, and that's no Judaism at all.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once wrote that "Jewish observance may be divided into two classes: into duties that call for both external performance and an act of the soul, and into duties that call only for an act of the soul. Thus the mind and the heart are never exempted from being engaged in the service of G-d." And he goes on to point out that in Judaism there are far more mitzvot that are exclusively duties of the heart than there are mitzvot that also have an external component.

Continued on page 6

From Our President Adrienne Ross

The Value of Memory



There is nothing more priceless than the value of memory. The bonus for this is when we can build memories together as a community that enable us to share.

The past few months have featured several events that have helped to build memories for the Congregation B'nai Tikvah Community.

In March, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary Gala. Under the very capable leadership of Amanda (Dillman) Uniman and Mindy Austein and their committee, we danced, celebrated, and even raised some money along the way. Who can erase the image of the Rabbi and friends doing the "worm" on the floor as we all "Shout"ed.

For some of us, we had the privilege of sharing a 3rd Seder with our CBT friends. This evening of fun enabled us to share some of the lighter aspects of the Seder with each other...and not having to do the dishes! When you see the announcement for next year's 3rd Seder, think about joining in!

For those of you who were at the synagogue on Sunday, April 8th, you all had a rare treat as we had our own version of "92nd St. Y" when Mayor Brad Cohen interviewed his father-in-law, Mike Jucowics. Mike was born in 1925 and, at the age of 93, shared with us his wit and humor as he told his personal story of life before, during, and after the Holocaust. Those of us in attendance heard, in his own words, what life was like in Hungary before the war, what the transport to Auschwitz was like, and how, after liberation, he returned to his home to find his family. It was a rare opportunity and created a shared memory for all in attendance.

Throughout the month of April, there were other key events as the synagogue participated in many programs to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the State of Israel. It is important, as we look to this month and the months ahead, to continue to "keep the building abuzz" and to build community memories. To do this, we need to ensure there are activities that interest you. As we begin our planning for 2018-19, what are the programs that you would like us to do (or do more of)? These can be "in" or "out"...but what they need to do is to build the connections of community. If you have an idea, or something you'd like to share, do not hesitate to reach out to either myself, one of the Vice-Presidents, or any member of the board. We are here to serve you and to strengthen our community.

Adrienne Ross
President

A Message From the Director of Education Eitan Gutin



Alef Consecration

On Friday, April 20th this year's Alef (3rd grade) class celebrated its Consecration. The focus of CBT's Consecration is that building the "Crown of a Good Name" for oneself is an important Jewish value.

The Consecration process began before Pesach with a special family class session. During that session, the Alef students learned about their Hebrew names and who they were named after. Each student created a Hebrew name keychain and a book cover for their new Siddur.

At their Friday night Consecration, each student led part of the service, read a short essay about their Hebrew name, was presented with a Siddur Sim Shalom, and was blessed by their parent(s). It was a moving Jewish experience and a meaningful night for all.

Bet Class Service

The Bet (4th grade) Class and their families gathered on Friday night, April 27th, for Shabbat dinner and for services. The Bet students led the service flawlessly, showing off their increased knowledge of both the Hebrew language and Tefillot -- Prayer (you should hear their Lecha Dodi!). They know how to pray with *keva* – the outward mechanics of prayer and *kavannah* – the inner intentionality and spirituality that each of us brings to *t'filah*. The friendships and mutual respect these children share are evident. It all makes for a joyous and meaningful worship experience.

Shorashim (2nd Grade) Learn About Israel

For their final unit of the school year, our second graders have been learning all about Israel. They began with the children sharing what they know; even before they began the unit the students were able to identify two cities in Israel (Jerusalem and Tel Aviv), talk about the "very salty" sea, describe the fact that there "are a lot of Jews" living there, and remember that we face Jerusalem when we pray.

After sharing what they already knew the students jumped into the unit which, as usual at this age, is made up of short lessons and projects. Their big project was a giant Israeli flag, decorated with tissue paper, which you can find hanging in the Religious School hallway.

Moving-Up Ceremony

On Sunday, May 20th, we will hold a special Religious School Moving-Up Ceremony, as part of CBT's celebration of the Shavuot holiday. We hope that all of our parents and students will join us for this very special occasion. The final session of Religious School for this school year will then take place on Wednesday, May 23rd.



ECC Model Seder



The JCC Early Childhood Center (ECC) at Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Enjoying Spring with the ECC

Our students have been creating windsocks and raindrops as we welcomed warmer and longer days this Spring. A highlight of April was when ECC parents joined us to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday; we had such a great time singing and dancing outside with Cantor Rockman.

Spread the Word about the ECC Summer Camp

The JCC ECC Summer camp, led by the wonderful Carol Winter, is open to all children aged 2 ½ to 6. Parents can choose between a full-day and a half-day program with both early drop-off and late stay options. Each week features a different theme:

Week 1, June 25-29:	Ooey Goey
Week 2, July 2-6:	Clownin' Around
Week 3, July 9-13:	Little Zookeepers
Week 4, July 16-20:	Bugs Galore
Week 5, July 23-27	Artful Antics
Week 6, July 30-Aug. 3:	Puppetmania
Week 7, August 6-10:	Wild Wild West
Week 8, August 13-17:	Winter in August

Contact the CBT office if you or someone you know would like to register for camp.

School Opens September 5th

We are already hard at work getting ready for the 2018-2019 school year. Spaces are still available in all three of our class levels:

Nefesh, for children aged 2 ½ to 3
Gesher, for children aged 3 ½ to 4
Shemesh (Pre K), for children aged 4 ½ to 5

All children have the option of attending school for either a half day (9-12) or full day (9-3) program. We are unique in providing one-on-one teacher-child interaction and small group learning within the context of vibrant classes that stimulate, challenge, and nurture every student.

The JCC ECC offers discounts for children and grandchildren of CBT members.

Keeping our Early Childhood Center strong strengthens the entire B'nai Tikvah community.

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- Two grand prizes awarded at the end of the season.

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

Continued from page 3.

No soul, no Judaism. Not only is what you believe crucial. Even your external actions are insufficient without being anchored in your relationship with the Divine. Heschel again: “G-d asks for the heart, not only for deeds; for insight, not only for obedience; for understanding and knowledge of G-d, not only for acceptance.”

Heschel goes on to ask: “If Torah is a tree of life, and ‘happy is everyone that holds her fast’ then, ‘Must we not learn how to taste the joy, the pleasantness, the peace and the happiness that emanate from the Torah?’ ”

Judaism, in a word, is not about performance. It is about performance that leads to spiritual Transformation.
Who knew?

So come be transformed at our Shavuot late-night study session on Saturday night, May 19th. We’re counting the days....

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff.

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Bar Mitzvah
Rafi Rockman
Son of
Cantor Bruce &
Stacey Rockman

May 5



Bat Mitzvah
Reese Krane
Daughter of
Suzy & Kevin Krane

May 12



Bat Mitzvah
Jaiden Radoczny
Daughter of
Renee & George
Radoczny

May 26

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Shelly Wistreich



Lori Sookerman

THIS MONTH

Monday, May 14 at 7:45 pm – Sisterhood Elections and Meeting at the Social Hall

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, June 8, 6:30pm—End of Year Dinner and Installation.

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

May special:
Any item with a "floral" motif take 20% off
Clearance - take an 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.
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From Chai Years Ago

A preprint from the May 2000 issue of Hakol

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

—by Ann Kanarek—

As the school year comes to a close, it is gratifying to look back at all that our students have learned and accomplished. It is thanks to our devoted group of teachers that all of our students have had such a successful year.

Teaching is crucial to the Jewish future and without our teachers Judaism would quickly evaporate. As we mark the end of the school year, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of our teachers. Many thanks to our esteemed faculty:

Deborah Cohen
Jeffrey Cohen
Joel Cohen
Rabbi David M. Eligberg
Abigail Edley
Phyllis Edley
Simon Feil

Gina Giuffre
Erica Gross
Brian Grossman
David Kanarek
Marshall Lesack
Aaron Lever
Bruce Rockman

Melanie Rodgers
Cantor Jodi Sered-Lever
Avi Slivko
Stacy Thompson
Kfir Weinraub
Carol Winter
Miriam Ziegler

On behalf of the faculty and school, I would like to thank the parents for all your support and, most especially, for giving us the pleasure of working with your children.



Religious School Faculty

Hakol Rates Size	Artwork (W x H)	Annual Contract (10 Issues)	Single Issue
Full page	8" x 10.5"	\$675	\$100
½ page	3.75" x 10.5" or 8" x 5"	\$525	\$80
¼ page	3.75" x 5"	\$400	\$60
Business card	2" x 3.5"	\$300	\$45



Do you need an access code to the synagogue?

Come to the office or call 732-297-0696 and Lynne WeissMarshall can assign one to you.



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FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER AND DAVENING

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

MAY 11, 2018

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

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 May or over the summer? 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 #: _____

Email address: _____

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES AND AGES OF YOUR CHILDREN AND OTHERS ATTENDING, USE BACK IF NECESSARY

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 MAY 9, 2018

Questions? Call Bobbi @ 732-690-4779 or email bobbijbinder@gmail.com

YOM HASHOAH: READING OF NAMES - April 12, 2018

10:00 – 10:30	Alan Weg
10:30 – 11:00	Jay Scheuer
11:00 – 11:30	Laura Waksman
11:30 – 12:00	Aime Zimel
12:00 – 12:30	Ruth and Alan Schechter
12:30 – 1:00	Jerry Shulman
1:00 – 1:30	Phyllis Saltzman
1:30 – 2:00	Bill & Ellie Greenberg
2:00 – 2:30	David Mason
2:30 – 3:00	Marty & Shirley Engel
3:00 – 3:30	Dave Distel
3:30 – 4:00	Phyllis Alroy
4:00 – 4:30	Bruce Rogove
4:30 – 5:00	Arthur Biderman
5:00 – 5:30	Gail Reinholtz
5:30 – 6:00	Irene Goldman
6:00 – 6:30	Bill Reinholtz
6:30 – 7:00	Susan Turner



The synagogue earns up to 15% when you shop at smile.amazon.com (not amazon.com). Click under the search bar where it says: "Supporting:" Search: "Congregation B'nai Tikvah" and select the one that indicates: "N Brunswick NJ"



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

Fund Contributions - March 13 thru April 12, 2018

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Irwin & Michele Millinger, in loving memory of Joseph Beim
Eleanor & Joel Weisenberg, in loving memory of Bernard Lorber
Sam Fisher, in loving memory of Rabbi Martin Fisher
Gale Dillman, in loving memory of Irene Buchbinder
Ruth Anne Koenick, in loving memory of Adeline M. Koenick
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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.**

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>APRIL</p> <p>S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>1 16 Iyar</p> <p>Board of Education Men's Basketball</p>	<p>2 17 Iyar</p> <p>Luncheon with Rabbi Religious School USY Bonfire</p>	<p>3 18 Iyar</p> <p>Executive Committee LAG B'OMER</p>	<p>4 19 Iyar</p> <p>Lunch out with Rabbi Plugged-in Shabbat</p>	<p>5 20 Iyar</p> <p>Junior Congregation Bar Mitzvah: Rafi Rockman</p>
<p>6 21 Iyar</p> <p>Religious School Rutgers Promenaders Kadima Horseback Riding Talking Baseball</p>	<p>7 22 Iyar</p> <p>Board of Directors</p>	<p>8 23 Iyar</p> <p>Men's Basketball</p>	<p>9 24 Iyar</p> <p>Luncheon with Rabbi Religious School</p>	<p>10 25 Iyar</p>	<p>11 26 Iyar</p> <p>Lunch out with Rabbi ECC Mother's Day Tea Birthday Shabbat Family Shabbat</p>	<p>12 27 Iyar</p> <p>Dalet Service Bar Mitzvah: Reese Krane Last Junior Congregation Lunch & Learn First Round on Rabbi</p>
<p>13 28 Iyar</p> <p>Religious School Yom Yerushalayim MOTHER'S DAY</p>	<p>14 29 Iyar</p> <p>Sisterhood Board Elections & Event</p>	<p>15 1 Sivan</p> <p>8pm Rabbi's Lecture Open Men's Basketball</p>	<p>16 2 Sivan</p> <p>Luncheon with Rabbi Religious School</p>	<p>17 3 Sivan</p> <p>Youth Commission</p>	<p>18 4 Sivan</p> <p>Lunch out with Rabbi Gimel Class Service & Dinner</p>	<p>19 5 Sivan</p> <p>EREV SHAVUOT</p>
<p>20 6 Sivan</p> <p>Kadima Convention Moving Up Ceremony SHAVUOT</p>	<p>21 7 Sivan</p> <p>(YIZKOR) SHAVUOT</p>	<p>22 8 Sivan</p> <p>USY Election Night Open Men's Basketball</p>	<p>23 9 Sivan</p> <p>Religious School</p>	<p>24 10 Sivan</p>	<p>25 11 Sivan</p>	<p>26 12 Sivan</p> <p>Sundaes on Saturday Bat Mitzvah: Jaden Radoczky</p>
<p>27 13 Sivan</p>	<p>28 14 Sivan</p> <p>Ritual Committee (offsite meeting) MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>29 15 Sivan</p> <p>Board of Education Open Men's Basketball</p>	<p>30 16 Sivan</p>	<p>31 17 Sivan</p> <p>Executive Committee</p>	<p>Candle Lighting</p> <p>4th 7:39 11th 7:46 18th 7:52 25th 7:59</p>	<p>Shabbat Ends</p> <p>5th 8:43 12th 8:51 19th 8:59 26th 9:06</p>



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