

THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

THE JCC OF NORTH AND SOUTH BRUNSWICK

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.





Monday, March 1st **Board of Directors**

> Tuesday, 2nd Rabbi Q&A

Wednesday, 3rd **Lunch with Rabbi**

> Friday, 5th **USY Shabbat**

Saturday, 6th **Junior Congregation**

Monday, 8th Sisterhood Board

Tuesday, 9th Rabbi Q&A

Wednesday, 10th **Lunch with Rabbi**

Thursday, 11th **USY Board**

Friday, 12th **School Service**

Tuesday, 16th Rabbi Lecture

Wednesday, 17th **Lunch with Rabbi**

> Friday, 19th **Pre-Pesach Shabbat Together**

Saturday, 20th **Junior Congregation**

Sunday, 21st Kadima

Monday, 22nd **Ritual Committee**

Thursday, 25th **Executive Committee**

Saturday, 27th First Seder

Sunday, 28th **Second Seder**

Monday, 29th Office Closed

Tuesday, 30th Rabbi Q&A www. bnaitikvah.org

From Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

Reading the Megillah Backwards



In the Talmud is an odd law: If you have read the Megillah of Esther backwards, you have not fulfilled your obligation (Megillah 17a). Now, where in the world would anyone get the idea that you *could* fulfill your obligation by reading the book backwards? Who reads books backwards?

One practical answer is that on Purim, you are supposed to get so drunk that you can't tell the difference between the statement "Blessed be Mordechai" and the statement "Cursed be Haman." [Gematria lovers please note: in Hebrew, those two phrases have the same numerical value! So in some fundamental sense, there *is* no difference between them!]. So if you're so drunk you can't tell that difference, you're probably so drunk that you can't tell whether you're coming or going, which end is up, or whether Hebrew is read from right to left or left to right! So the Rabbis wanted to warn you to be careful!

Another answer, more historically grounded, is that the Megillah held a special fascination for our rabbinic teachers since the name of G-d does not appear in it. And since, to our Rabbis, "there is no place that is free of G-d's presence," G-d's name had to be hidden in there somewhere. Reading the text backwards could perhaps reveal the name of G-d in a place where it otherwise seems absent. In fact, we do know that the text of the Megillah, read backwards, was used for magical purposes.

Yet another answer, of a more philosophical bent, is that the major theme of the Megillah is that the world of politics is a castle built in the air, a dream palace that only offers the *illusion* of safety and certainty. In the Book of Esther, it appears that Haman (may his name be blotted out) will win, and Mordechai will lose. Their respective fates are reversed, and Haman (*yemach shmo*) is killed on the very gallows he had erected for Mordechai. Similarly, the enemies of the Jews had expected to be able to murder the Jews with impunity. In fact, though, the tables are reversed and, as the text points out explicitly, the Jews do to their attackers what the attackers had thought to do to the Jews.

A final suggestion, made first by Rabbi Yitzchak of Volozhin: "Reading the text backwards" means reading the text as if it only refers to a time in the past, thereby implying that the text lacks contemporary relevance. Anyone who thinks the ancient text has no bearing on today's situation has not fulfilled his obligation to hear every word of the Megillah. If the main theme of the Megillah is unpredictable role reversal, what better evidence can we have of its contemporary relevance than the election season we just went (read: suffered) through!

Fulfilling our obligation to hear the Megillah means, according to this interpretation, to have the courage to address the inherent uncertainties of political life. We must recognize that, over and above having good connections in Washington and powerful lobbies to protect our interest, we must have solidarity, fidelity and faith.

That is the message of Purim. Let us learn it, and next year, may we enjoy our holiday to the fullest—together!!

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 encouraged about events, group activities, and anything relevant to the Jewish Community. All articles emailed to Hakol@bnaitikvah.org are due by the 15th of the preceding month and are subject to available space and editorial constraints. We discourage the use of PDF files. All issues are archived at bnaitikvah.org/hakol and emailed via the CBT Newsletter. Editors: Gary Bergman, Ann Gold, Arthur Biderman, Janet Weiss, and Sandy Sharon. Advertising: Meryl Harris and Janet Weiss.

From the Desk of Cantor Rockman

"Sh'mah Yisrael-Listen Israel. V'ahavta-And you shall love."



What does it mean to love G-d? It means in part to love G-d's world, not only the stars, the seas, the mountains, the trees and the Earth, but also to love one another. To see the spark of G-d in another human being is not only to love that person but the source from which he or she came. To love G-d is to love all that G-d has given us. We who are G-d's children love G-d for the creation, for the connection, for the possibilities and for the past, for everything.

You may know love or even feel love but only if you demonstrate it in the way that you move in the world is it real love." Rabbi David Wolpe

I heard these words and I felt a little better. During this incredibly disorienting time, wondering about G-d's role in this mess, I found clarity and some validation. My faith was strengthened by doing, praying and by pushing myself to stay connected, to life to love to G-d. The lessons that we learn during such a perplexing experience can serve us well. "To love G-d is to love all that G-d has given us...for everything." As when loved ones are torn away from us, we become inspired by the memories of lives well lived.

Now, as we approach a full year of "Covid Exile," Passover is arriving and we will celebrate our freedom. "We were slaves in Egypt, now we are free." Admittedly, our celebrations and our ability to gather will still be restricted. Depending upon the progress of our vaccinations, some of us will be able to gather in person, while relatives and friends can be incorporated via Zoom. The experience that we have gained maintaining connections through Zoom will likely continue to transform our ability to interact beyond our usual restrictions.

Our Passover Seders will begin following Shabbat on Saturday evening March 27th and Sunday March 28th. Our Religious School Passover Experience is scheduled for a time, to be determined, for the previous Sunday, March 21st. I am currently working with our Federation and PJ Library to offer a new type of experience: the JKids Radio Musical Passover Seder. This Seder will highlight an amazing line up of the very top artists in Jewish kids music including Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Eliana Light, Shira Kline, Ellen Allard, Rick Recht, Joanie Leeds, and Elana Jagoda! The event will be offered via Zoom and should be a great opportunity to gather ideas for our personal Seders.

We are a rightfully proud of the amazing innovations that emanate from Israel. Unfortunately, like here in the United States, there is significant poverty in Israel. According to The Leket Israel National Food Bank, this year, leading up to Passover, it has received 35% more in requests for assistance from its 200 nonprofit partners. This organization, the largest food rescue organization in Israel, received some 1,600 tons of fruits and vegetables that were slated for destruction. Instead, were donated by farmers, packing houses and surplus food crops.

Acts of kindness are the type of activity that we need to add to our routines. A few years ago, during our congregational trip to Israel, we picked tomatoes for Leket. During our Seders, this year as we say "all who are hungry come and eat," we can demonstrate the way that we move in the world is an expression of our love.

V'ahavta HaShem Elohehcha, as G-d loves you, you shall love the Lord your G-d.

Chag Sameach, Cantor Bruce Rockman

From President Marty Abschutz



I hope this message finds your families, your friends, your colleagues and you well and safe. As COVID-19 vaccine doses become more available, we need to continue our vigilance by wearing masks and keeping a six-foot distance in social situations; actively adhering to both is the best protection for heading back to a "normal" time in our lives.

We will continue to provide you with information regarding where to sign up for your vaccine. As I write this, appointments are still difficult to obtain. Perseverance and persistence are the keys. Hopefully, by the time you read this, appointments will be much more readily available as vaccines are distributed to local pharmacies, in addition to mega sites, hospitals, and large pharmacy chains.

Among the ways we continued our community connection is this year's Purim Mishloach Manot for every member living in the greater Middlesex County area, including North, South, East and New Brunswick, and Monroe. Special thanks go to our generous Golden and Silver Groggers plus those of you who made additional donations. Further thanks go to our "family" of package deliverers who generously donated their time to make sure each member received their delivery in time for Purim. Many people in this family delivered our High Holiday packages, too!

The COVID-19 Task Force continues to monitor CDC and State guidelines, while considering what is occurring in Middlesex County. Continue looking for the latest information on our website and our Thursday Weekly Announcements newsletter.

We have applied for our second PPP loan. In addition, we have applied for forgiveness of our first PPP loan. The forgiveness is a very simplified (one-page) application. As always, please reach out to any member of the Board or Clergy or our Administrator with your comments and questions.

Elijah's Promise Snack Bags



Cheryl Cricl

Last month, Elijah's Promise posted an urgent call for help on its Facebook page, asking the community to donate premade Snack Bags. Elijah's Promise hands out snack bags alongside hot meals that they provide to the homeless community. Wanting to help, Sisterhood asked CBT members to assemble snack bags at home and drop them off at CBT. Alternatively, members could make a monetary donation to the cause. I was hoping for twenty premade bags and \$100 in donations. But as usual, there was a need, and CBT rose to the occasion. As of this writing (Feb 8th, there are still seven more days of this project), CBT members donated over 70 premade bags and over \$400! Thank you to everyone that contributed! Starting in March, Sisterhood's next collection will take us through the beginning of the summer. Visit CBT's website for more details.

World Wide Wrap

On Sunday, February 7th, Conservative Jews around the world celebrated the mitzvah of Tefillin at morning Minyan. Congregation B'nai Tikvah proudly got together, virtually, to participate in the national World Wide Wrap.



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Project Stock the Shelves



The Garden State Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism recently launched its 2021 social justice initiative, Project Stock the Shelves.

How Sisterhood is helping:

- 1. CBT's Sisterhood will be collecting WLCJ's monthly recommended selections.
- 2. If you can, during your everyday grocery shopping, pick up that month's selections and drop off your donation at CBT's main office. (*Please call or email ahead to schedule a drop-off time*).
- 3. At the end of each month, Sisterhood will deliver the collected items to local food pantries in the name of WLCJ and CBT's Sisterhood.

Recommendations for the next several months:

- · February Peanut Butter and jelly
- · March Soup, and crackers
- · April Pasta, and pasta sauce
- · May Tuna and macaroni and cheese
- June Canned fruit and protein bars

Please be aware of "sell by" dates as food pantries cannot distribute expired products. Gift cards and cash donations are always welcome. Diapers and feminine hygiene products are needed too. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps.

If you have any questions, contact Cheryl Crick at CherylCrick13@gmail.com.

KOSHER KITCHEN—TO GO

Four-meal Minimum Order

Order Form on next page.

QTY	Item	Price	Total
	Shabbat Dinner		
	Whole Roasted Chicken With Kasha Varnishkes,		
	Grilled Vegetables and 1 QT Chicken Noodle Soup	36.00	
	Shabbat Dinner #2		
	3-6 ounce pieces of Braised ShortRib with Mushroom Gravy		
	served with 1 Qt Chicken Soup, Mashed Potato and Coleslaw	48.00	
	ENTREES		
	Short Rib Entrée served with Mashed Potato and Grilled Vegetables	18.95	
	Hibachi Chicken served over Vegetable Lo-mein	14.95	
	Baked Ziti (Dairy)	14.95	
	Chicken Fingers (8 pieces)	12.00	
	Dark Meat Chicken Kebab over Herb Rice With Israeli Salad and Tahina	14.95	
	Eggplant Rollatini over Penne Marinara (Dairy)	14.95	
	Filet of Branzino with Lemon Wine Sauce With Rice and Sautéed Spinach	17.95	
	French-cut Chicken w Lemon Garlic Sauce with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Vegetables	14.95	
	Fresh-cut Chicken with Marsala Sauce with Herb Rice and Sauteed Spinach	14.95	
	Grilled Herb Salmon with Dijon Dill Sauce with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Vegetables	14.95	
	Homemade Meatloaf with Mushroom Gravy Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Vegetables	14.95	
	Macaroni & Cheese (Dairy)	11.00	
	Pasta Primavera	11.00	
	Penne Marinara	8.00	
	Ponzu Seabass served over Fried Rice	18.95	
	Pulled BBQ Brisket over Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Vegetables	17.95	
	Spaghetti and Meatballs	14.95	
	Stuffed Cabbage with Kasha Varnishkes	14.95	
	Sweet and Sour Meatballs Over Penne Pasta	14.00	
	Teriyaki Glazed Salmon Over Vegetable Fried Rice	14.95	
	Vegetable Fried Rice	11.00	
	SOUPS, SALADS, & SIDES		
Î	Homestyle Chicken Noodle Soup (1 QT)	11.00	
	Homemade Potato Knish (2 per order)	7.00	
	Kasha Varnishkes (1 QT)	11.00	
	Mushroom Barley Soup (1 QT)	11.00	
	Tomato and Cucumber Salad (2 servings)	11.00	
	DESSERTS		
	David's Brownies (6 Large)	12.00	
	David's Blondies (6 Large)	12.00	
	Rice Pudding (1 Pint)	5.99	
	FRESH MEATS (Uncooked)		
T	2 LB Trimmed Chicken Cutlets	18.00	_
	Whole Chicken	11.00	
	Local Delivery	20.00	

Meals are freshly prepared and may be frozen for later use.







Lori Sookerman

Shelly Wistreich

Please visit http://bnaitikvah.org/sismember to discover the joy of getting involved in our circle. Sisterhood would love to welcome you.

Contact: Jessica Zink - Jessica Zink @optonline.net

Mitzvah Baskets

Help us decorate the bima with nonperishable food baskets. We also deliver baskets to other synagogues. Tell your friends about this service. Contact: Teresa Samtur 732-821-8163 or msamtur@comcast.net

Mazel Tosses

Enhance the simcha of your child's special day by having Sisterhood provide these bags of soft candy which will sweeten the day. Also great for an aufruf. Order your Mitzvah Baskets and Mazel Tosses at bnaitikvah.org at least one month before your mitzvah.

Contact: Marci Abschutz, 732-735-1946.

Torah Fund

The new pins are available with a \$180 pledge. We would love to welcome you as a Torah Fund benefactor, helping the Women's League for Conservative Judaism to support the Jewish Theological Seminary, its teachers, Cantors, and Rabbis.

Contact: Gale Dillman - DillmanGale@gmail.com

Gift Shop

The gift shop is available online or by appointment during regular office hours.

https://bnaitikvah.org/shop

Contact: Serena Blackin 732-390-9515

Scan here to shop online _____



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EMAIL:						
FORM OF PAYMENT	: (four-m	eal minimun	n on all orders)			
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Orders must be received by 4pm Friday for curbside-pickup on the following Wednesday between 12:00 and 2pm.

Scan here or visit classical.catertogo.com to place an order online.

HAKOL



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Join Sisterhood and see what we're all about... We need your support!

We welcome your ideas, participation and enthusiasm!

We hope everyone has been safe and healthy during these times! They certainly are like no other and we have been thinking of ways to keep our Jewish community together!

Please join us and we can still enjoy a creative year that's fun through ZOOM or in a mask and 6 feet apart! We all need to stay in contact and connect with each other!

Upcoming events will be announced and shared!

Fill in this form and mail it to our Financial Secretary, Elisa Berness, at the address provided below.

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Sisterhood Purim Bags A short history (as memory serves) By Bobbi Binder

By the time you read this, you will likely have consumed most of the contents of your 5781/2021 Purim bag. We hope that you enjoyed all the goodies!

The pandemic certainly has posed many problems for our congregation. When Sisterhood was approached to change the way that we hold our Purim Box fundraiser and instead make it so that every member receives a bag, the Sisterhood board wholeheartedly agreed, with enthusiasm!! Chaired by Marci Abschutz with a great committee of volunteers, contents were ordered (with a few bumps along the way), bags were assembled, drivers hit the road and bags were delivered.

What many of you may not know is how this all began back in 1990! Sisterhood was asked to take this on as a fundraiser, and even back then, we wholeheartedly agreed, with enthusiasm! A committee of women met to decide the contents of the bags. We ordered items from a vendor who came to my house, calculating the cost of each bag to the penny. I went to Grand Union Supermarket on Route 1 and took produce bags from the vegetable department to be used for our goodies. Susie Rosenstock, of blessed memory, drove me (8 months pregnant in her SUV, which I later learned was the first time she was driving it) to Brooklyn, to pick up the hamantaschen. I am most definitely getting old so I will surely be corrected after this is read. My memory is that Lisa Seidman came to my house and we put bags together for those people who ordered them. And then had our Sisterhood board members deliver these bags.

By the next year, word of this fun fundraiser spread. We created more lavish bags. We had different sizes. If there were orders for a family from 5-9 other members, they received one size bag, and if a family or member had orders from 10 or more, they received yet a bigger bag! At one point we had three different size bags! As we moved through time, this became too cumbersome and complicated and it was decided to have just one adult-size bag and a children's bag.

It was one snowy February that I was out delivering bags to members. It was icy and very cold. I got back to the synagogue and saw that most of the people whose houses I just drove to were at the synagogue for the Purim carnival! Sisterhood then made the decision to stop delivery and have members pick their bags up. This always resulted in left over bags, which Sisterhood then donated to various organizations.

This has been a very brief history – there are many tales to be told about ordering, assembling, matching up reciprocal orders, bookkeeping, shopping, organizing and sometimes a little last-minute scrambling to get this done in time for Purim. Each year, there is always a little something that gets changed, but the thought remains the same – giving treats to one another to celebrate Purim!

A note from Sisterhood to our membership

During these unprecedented times, Sisterhood was tasked with trying to figure out a way to handle our yearly Purim Basket fundraiser. Thanks to Marci Abschutz and her committee, we were able to put together a wonderful treat for our entire B'nai Tikvah Community.

On behalf of Sisterhood – a special thank you to our Golden Grogger Club, our Silver Purim donors and the many people who chose to donate what they could. Thank you to those members who braved the elements of winter to pick bags up at the synagogue and deliver them to our members. We also thank our great office staff for all their help.

Below is the list of Golden Grogger and Silver Purim donators. Thanks so much!



The Golden Grogger Club:

Marci & Martin Abschutz, David Schultz & Nancy Asher-Shultz, Cheryl Asnis, Jeff & Rose Berger, Gary & Bobby Bergman, Elisa, Brian, Harrison, Shane & Derek Berness, Lynn & Arthur Biderman, Bobbi & Marc Binder, The Blackin Family, Linda & Alan Brown, Arlene & Arthur Cederbaum, Gale & Marc Dillman, The Fishelbergs, Sam & Yasmin Fisher, Arlene & Mitchell Frumkin, Joel & Joyce Gerbman, Linda Fellen & Ben Gottesman, Caryl & Danny Greenberg, Gordon & Meryl Heit, Irina Irgon, Arline & Alan Kane, Fern & Allan Katronetsky, Andrew, Steven, Matthew & Melissa Katz, Melissa & Scott Kessler, Steven & Marcie Kfare, Janice & Barry Kipnis, Ruth Anne Koenick, The Krane Family, Renee & Steve Levin and Family, Susan Miller, Allison & David Nagelberg, Marci Oslick & Phil Welsher, Cantor and Stacey Rockman and Family, Adrienne & Andrew Ross, Barry & Phyllis Safeer, Marshall & Teresa Samtur, Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, Mark & Brenda Sherman, Charlie & Laurie Valan, Janet Weiss, Rabbi & Rebbetzin Wolkoff, and Anonymous.

Silver Purim Sponsors:

Laura Bernstein, Matica & Harris Bierstein, Candace, Craig, Emilee & Sydney Botnick, Stephen Breitkopf, Mr. & Mrs. P. Charatz, Joe & Felice Ciccione, Carol Eisenberg, Juro Family, Maxine Kasdin, Irwin & Michelle Millinger, Joseph Plotnick, The Riback Family, Marc, Rochelle & Liam Rosen, Natasha Rosenbaum & Irwin Lewis, Caroline & Amanda Scharf, Bonnie & Woody Stevens, Gail & Herb Sussman, Helene & Gary Tinkel, Amanda, Harry, Joseph & Isaac Uniman, and Allen & Nadine Weg.

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Social Action

Compassion Is Not On Lockdown



Laura Waksman

As I look out at my snow filled yard and having once again shoveled the driveway, I find myself thinking of flower pots filled to the brim with color and outdoor gatherings . Spring is around the corner, and with it will come more opportunities to do Tikun Olam projects safely, in person, outdoors with some creative brainstorming. So let's put our heads together and look forward to seeing each other from a distance, while making our small part of the world better for all people. Contact me with your ideas.

In the meantime, compassion is not on lockdown. The Social Action committee has been continuing to write to seniors at Park Place in South Brunswick. The recreation director hangs the cards in the residents' rooms and has told me that they are very appreciative. Thank you to Gilda Gildenberg for writing to seniors. If you would like to send cards with bright cheerful pictures and a few uplifting words to isolated seniors, or if you have a contact with an elder-care facility that might like to receive cards, please send me an email.

Creators for Causes

We are still looking for 6 (or more!) creators to join others and share their gifts with CBT while raising money for charity. Do you draw, paint, work with wood, metal, ceramics or other crafts? Donate one or more of your creations which will be up for sale to CBTers for a minimum asking price of \$30. All proceeds will go to a charity chosen by the committee.

Jewish Family Services (JFS) Kosher Meals on Wheels is looking for drivers for their routes in East Brunswick, Edison and other towns in the northern part of the county. There are other volunteer opportunities at JFS as well. These are contact free deliveries. Contact Michelle at JFS at 732-777-1940.

North Brunswick Meals on Wheels is also looking for drivers for Monday and Thursday mornings beginning at 10:45. Contact our own Andrea Katz at <a href="macusemontmodele-macusemont-macuse

Interfaith Rise (I Rise)

I attended my first I Rise Zoom meeting in February and was somewhat overwhelmed by all the information, terminology, and acronyms being presented as well as the quality and breadth of services they provide to refugees. They are based out of the Reformed Church in Highland Park and are the State Department refugee and immigrant support service agency in

Central New Jersey. The first family to arrive in Central New Jersey in 2021 is from Guatemala and has been provided housing in Highland Park through I Rise. I Rise is seeking remote 1:1 volunteers to tutor adults in English reading and writing and volunteers to help with conversation practice. Training is provided. Contact wendy@interfaithrise.org.

Community Collection Closet

Clear out your closets and fill up ours. For the entire month of March we will be collecting boxed games and toys for special needs adults in group homes to be donated to the ARC of Middlesex County on Blackhorse Lane. Please avoid small chokable pieces. Building blocks of any kind larger than the small Legos, toys with lights or sounds with working batteries, Rubik cube type, fidget toys, and up to 100 piece jigsaw puzzles are good choices. Avoid very juvenile early childhood level games.

Contact <u>Cherylcrick13@gmail.com</u> with questions. Always call the office first before dropping off donations.

Social Action Fund Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our congregants, the committee has been able recently to give to a) congregants in dire need, b) the Eric B. Chandler Health Center in New Brunswick, whose mission is to provide accessible, affordable health care to all, c) Interfaith Rise for computers for the newly arrived adults in the Guatemalan family to pursue education, d) The JFS Kosher Food Pantry for items not covered by their FEMA pandemic grant, and e) the South Brunswick Senior Center toward their February programming.

This month, instead of highlighting a Jewish non-profit, I am sharing with you an article about how Rutgers Dental School is helping Holocaust Survivors. Please share with others. http://bit.ly/rutgersdental

If you know of a Jewish non-profit in our local area or in the state that is doing good work, please let me know.

TOGETHER....LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Laura Waksman@gmail.com

USY / Kadima

HAKOL



Sydney Sookerman

I am so proud to announce that with our 2020 Hagalil Chapter of the Year Award through USY we were eligible and applied for International Chapter of the Year and other International Excellence Awards back in December.

Award recipients are chosen by teen regional presidents and the International Executive Board based upon USY's standards of excellence. We were featured and had the honor of accepting Excellence in Religion/Education Programming for the 2020 year. USY chapters like ours, nominated and awarded this year, drive the organization forward and set an example for others to follow.

I am so proud of our USY board members and chapter members. A special shout-out to Religion Education VP Rafi Rockman. It would have not been possible without Rafi's motivation and dedication of Religion education for the past two years in this position on our board.

I think the one thing that stood out to the organization was our NSBUSY Annual USY Shabbat. We explained it as our own little Shabbaton at B'nai Tikvah, where our chapter runs services from Friday night into Saturday and ends with Havdalah as well. USYers also have the option of sleeping at each others homes, if they would like. USYers run services all by themselves and it's really something special to experience for both the USYers, families and congregants. We had USY themed tunes, D'var Torah speeches, games, ice breakers, Shabbat dinner and so much more.

As the advisor, I love seeing our congregants' eyes light up and smiles get bigger when they experience this weekend with us. When all generations can come together in one space and have fun, it's truly something meaningful. Even though this year's USY Shabbat will be very different than the past, we look forward to what we can do via technology for our annual USY SHABBAT from March 5th to 6th. It is upsetting that we cannot be with each other this year for this special time, but we have to remember how fortunate we are to be able to have the technology to connect with each other and still experience this special Shabbat.

From helping decorate the sukkah, setting up chairs and siddurs for high holidays, food drives, helping host a CBT Hanukkah Celebration, and more, we always strive to incorporate what USY is all about: our Judaism, our education, and our traditions.

Lastly, I had the opportunity to attend this year's USY IC via the Swapcard App on a phone or computer. It was truly amazing what they put together on this platform. Our USYers and I were able to hear from Sarah Hurwitz, Jewish speechwriter for former United States President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama and author of Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life -- in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There). In addition, the music group Koolulam was supposed to perform for USY in Washington D.C. Instead, they came together with the organization and shared this final video. Check it out. It is very moving and wonderful to watch at: http://bit.ly/USYkoolulam

Again, please join us via the B'nai Tikvah Zoom Link on our website or watch the streaming of services on B'nai Tikvah's Facebook page for USY SHABBAT March 5th to 6th. Please follow @northbrunswickusy on Instagram for all up to date announcements and events for both USY & Kadima.

When a cure is no longer possible, what matters most...

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Commitment. Compassion. Community.

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Bar Mitzvah

HAKOL



Ethan Goldberger Son of Melanie & Andrew Goldberger March 20th

linda.schmidt@israelbonds.com • 732.527.9547

Bikur Cholim

The mission of the Bikur Cholim committee is to provide comfort and support to the B'nai Tikvah community who are ill, homebound, isolated and/or otherwise in distress. Support includes such activities as visitation in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes or private homes when conditions allow. Additionally, we will assist those who are ill or impaired with errands, rides to medical appointments as well as telephone contact and reassurance, especially to our senior members.

Members of the Committee and those who offered assistance with driving for members:

Nancy Asher-Shultz, Margie Atwater, Gary Bergman, Joyce Gerbman, Harriet Hershanov, Allen Pinksy, David Shultz, Steve Talmud, Laura Waksman, Gene Wilk, and Jill Stone, Chair



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You can make your contributions online by
Clicking the "Giving" link at bnaitikvah.org

An Update From The Bikur Cholim Committee

While the committee is unable to fulfill its primary mission to visit those who are hospitalized or otherwise ill or recovering at home, we are helping others by doing light errands, such as picking up prescriptions, doing light shopping, and providing transportation. If you need a ride to receive your COVID inoculation, please contact the committee at bikur@bnaitikvah.org or call the synagogue office at 732-297-0696.

WHAT IS A PAINTING PARTY?



Bill Greenberg

After the construction of our sanctuary and main building, and years later our first school wing, B'nai Tikvah was understandably short of funds. To save money, our leaders organized "painting parties" on Sundays with congregants volunteering to do the needed work of painting. After colors were selected by a decorating committee and supplies obtained, the parties began.

Those of us who participated, remember with nostalgia, specific incidents. Dave Mason, who was in charge of logistics for our first "party," remembers toting his ladder from home every Sunday. Marc Dillman still has a photo of himself and his two young sons wielding paint brushes, Dave Offenberg recalled seeing a congregant descending a tall ladder and placing a foot into a five gallon can of paint instead of on the floor.

The contractor for the main building had left a scaffold for us to use to reach the highest parts of the sanctuary walls. One of our braver congregants who was painting up high and out of sight was mistakenly forgotten when work was done one day and the lights were turned off! My own recollections include some of us leaving painted messages on the upper spaces of the classroom walls that were to be hidden from sight by the false ceilings. Our painting parties were sometimes messy but always fun!

Members of the MENS CLUB participated in the painting parties and have always supported and assisted in congregational events and activities when needed.

TO JOIN THE MENS CLUB,

please contact me at Sailor4498@optonline.net

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Donations: January 13 - February 12, 2021

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

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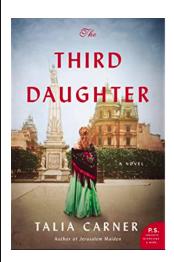
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Sisterhood Book Club



Join the Sisterhood for our 2nd virtual book chat on Wednesday, March 10th at 8:00 pm

www. bnaitikvah.org

No charge for this event.

The Third Daughter by Talid Carner

We will be drawing five lucky winners (must have Sisterhood dues up to date) to win a Hardcover version or Kindle copy of the book.

RSVP by March 5th to get the Zoom link. All responses received by **January 25th** will be eligible for the raffle. Raffle winners will be announced January 26th!

Please respond to Sheryl Levine slevine0710@gmail.com

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Plus other friends who wish to remain anonymous

THANK YOU



"Thank You" to Margie Atwater, Jay Scheuer, Joyce Fishelberg, Gilda Gildenberg, Risa Stolly, and Bill Greenberg for making birthday calls.

Thanks to Phyllis Pinsky for doing the beautiful calligraphy on the B'nai Mitzvah and Baby Naming certificates.

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14 _{1 Nisan}	15 _{2 Nisan}	16 3 Nisan	17 _{4 Nisan}	18 _{5 Nisan}	19 _{6 Nisan}	20 7 Nisan
Religious School DST Begins ROSH CHODESH		Rabbi Lecture	Lunch with Rabbi Religious School		Pre-Pesach Shabbat	Jr. Congregation First Day of Spring BM: Ethan
21 8 Nisan	22 _{9 Nisan}	23 _{10 Nisan}	24 _{11 Nisan}	25 _{12 Nisan}	Together 26 _{13 Nisan}	Goldberger 27 14 Nisan
Kadima Religious School	Ritual Committee		Religious School	Executive Committee	Fast of the First Born SIYYUM SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ	FIRST SEDER
28 _{15 Nisan}	29 _{16 Nisan}	30 17 Nisan	31 _{18 Nisan}		0 11 1 1 1 1 1	0 1 1
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