# הקול •HAKOL



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, April 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors

Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Q&A

**USY Board** 

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> Lunch with Rabbi

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> Yom Hashoah Readings

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> USY Shabbat

Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> Junior Congregation

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> Sisterhood

USY

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Lecture

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> Lunch with Rabbi

Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> USY Hagalil

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> Sisterhood Board

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Q&A

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> Lunch with Rabbi

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> Junior Congregation

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> Kadima

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> Ritual Committee

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Lecture

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> Lunch with Rabbi

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> USY

#### From Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff



www. bnaitikvah.org

There is general agreement that Steven Spielberg's film, Schindler's List, is one of the greatest films of all time. For many, it was their main, and perhaps only, introduction to the Jewish experience. In Germany, for example, it was released simultaneously to 500 theaters, and 100,000 people saw it in the first week. Eventually, that number rose to (ironically) 6 million Germans. As a gut-wrenching depiction of the brutality and horror of the Holocaust, one could hardly hope for better.

What the film does not depict, though (and this is an observation, not a critique), is the incredible richness and vibrancy of Jewish life in Poland before the abyss of evil opened and swallowed that entire world. Even in the Warsaw ghetto, there was a symphony orchestra and clandestine lectures offered by world experts in numerous fields. But beyond those spectacular examples of cultural creativity in conditions of extreme stress, Polish Jewry built a civilization for a thousand years before the Holocaust. Phenomenal synagogues. Great foods. Profound rabbis and teachers. And, most important, communal institutions of remarkable strength, resiliency, and, in the case of religious institutions, spirituality.

In Schindler's List, all of that and so much more is depicted, poignantly and powerfully, in a few seconds, by the flame of a Shabbat candle burning out, smoldering, and going dark.

Survey after survey has shown that remembering the Holocaust is considered to be the most generally shared marker of modern Jewish identity. But this is

a mixed blessing. Of course, we must remember the Holocaust—that should never be in question. But even more important than remembering the Holocaust is remembering what was there before the Holocaust. The victims of the Holocaust were not "just" human beings (although the murder of "just" human beings is, obviously, bad enough). These victims were not murdered because they were human. They were murdered because they were Jews, and representatives of that 1000 year old Polish Jewish civilization (and, to be sure, the 4,000 year old Jewish civilization as a whole). If we wish to remember, that is what we need to remember.

19 Nisan - 18 Iyar

And with this in mind, I am delighted to call your attention to our upcoming Yom Hashoah program. CBT Sisterhood and Men's Club will co-sponsor a virtual tour of Jewish life in Poland on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm.

Here is a short description:

Explore 1000 years of Jewish life and culture in Poland via the gravestones of influential personalities, from great Chassidic rebbes to Yiddish theater actors and secular Hebrew writers. Visit the only remains of the Warsaw Ghetto wall, walk the Ghetto Heroes Trail, stop at Mila 18, and see the Rapaport memorial. We will end our visit at Nozyk synagogue, the only surviving prewar Jewish house of prayer in Warsaw, Poland, and conclude with a memorial prayer in memory of the victims, z"l.

If we wish to honor their memory, we must especially honor who they were. How they lived is even more important than how they died. And how we live is the greatest testament to their memory, may it be for a blessing.

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

# **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



Dear Friends,

This past year has been difficult, painful, full of loss and strife. Throughout, it has been my intention to remain engaged with you, my congregational family. Together we've zoomed and streamed Shabbat and High Holiday services, Havdalah, daily services, b'nai mitzvah lessons, and when gathering was prohibited, we even celebrated a few of our b'nai mitzvah on Zoom. After long days in Zoom-school our patient students have attended religious school on line, with teachers who lovingly adapted and brought new creativity to their "classrooms." The pain of loss was never more evident than at funerals and shivah due to limitations on gathering size; it has been such a lonely and disorienting experience.

My zeal for being together with you has brought me some happy moments, as when we gathered for the annual "Falafel Ball-Live from my Office" or "Shabbat Shirah from Home" which included our very talented CBT family members, Marty Angstreich, Jerry Silver, Bashe, Rafi, and Liam Rosen. So many congregants facilitated and attended wonderful events, trips to Israel, game nights, the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving with our local clergy on YouTube, even a few Shabbat dinners and Passover Seders.

We are ever grateful for all of the care packages personally distributed by numerous committees, including the Covid-19 Taskforce, the Religious School Committee, and most recently Sisterhood for Purim. Thanks to my faith and my enthusiasm, I have managed to hold on, but there is always this nagging feeling that I missed something or that I "should have" done more. I can not image how you feel, but certainly you have experienced similar challenges.

We will commemorate and celebrate Israel's Yom HaZikarone and Yom HaAtzmauut with the Falafel Ball on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. I just do not know how yet. See, as I write this letter to you, I'm still preparing for our Religious School Passover Experience and my second night Zoom Seder. I promise that it will be uplifting. It would be such a blessing if I heard from you, I'd love to know what you're feeling, what you need and what you're thinking during this incredibly difficult and painful time.

Soon, as this storm has passed, we will once again stand, sing, and pray together in our sanctuary. We've been careful and followed the advice of our professionals, yet we have paid a price. Life at CBT will be different. What have we learned from our isolation? It is my prayer that our faith has been bolstered not weakened and that our sense of community will be renewed. I believe that we have the tools to rebuild our community but we have a lot of work to do. We must gather our vigor and our insight; we must learn and grow together. We must do more than put out the small fires around us. We must light a flame of hope and resilience that will inspire our children and our children's children. I love our B'nai Tikvah family.

Know that we will come together in Shalom and Peace to worship the Lord in gladness.

Cantor Bruce Rockman Nissan 5781-March, 2021

## **From President Marty Abschutz**



I am incredibly happy to announce that Congregation B'nai Tikvah has been approved for and received a second PPP loan, in the amount of approximately \$83,000. This should help us get through any further challenges that the virus presents during the current fiscal year, ending July 31, 2021. We will be applying for forgiveness of our first PPP loan, now that we have received the funds from our second loan.

As to next fiscal year, we will see what the Budget & Finance Committee presents to the Membership in June. They will be starting their process as you read this. We should know a lot more about the rest of 2021 and prospects for gatherings by the time they share their proposal with you.

We can do more than hope things will be better next fiscal year by taking the vaccine, wearing masks and physical distancing when gathering, as appropriate, In short, follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 guidelines to do your part to get us back to something approaching our pre-pandemic "normal."

Lastly, by the time you read this, we should be well into Passover. In the words of my grandfather, I wish you all a Zissen Pesach!

# Lag B'Omer Optimistic ShaBarbQ



Check the Weekend Announcements

### **CBT Virtual Israel Tour A Success!**







**Ruth Anne Koenick** 

For one week in February, more than 30 members of CBT boarded the El Al virtual plane and landed in Tel Aviv where our tour began. We then travelled to Old Jaffa, the Ayalon Institute (an underground bullet factory disguised as a kibbutz that ran as a laundry service for British soldiers in 1945), to Atlit (a JNF heritage site that was a pre-state clandestine immigration base in Israel) at Akko, Tzfat, and the Galilee. And that was just DAY ONE!

Other days included Ben Gurion's home on Sde Boker, modern Beersheva, a Bedouin city in Rehat. Our last night, before Shabbat, was spent at the King David Hotel, going to the Wall, eating in Mahane Yeduda, and saying hello to former CBT congregants Rafi Glazer and Hayley Nagelberg, who have made Aliyah.

The week ended with sharing group Shabbat prayers and our own Rabbli Wolkoff discussing the Masorti movement (Conservative Judaism) in current day Israel. The mix of congregants who had either never been to Israel, hadn't been to Israel in 30 years, and those who go more frequently, was a wonderful mix. No matter which category one represented, everyone agreed that places were seen for the first time and lessons learned with new information!

Thank you to all those that made contributions to JNF beyond the \$50 fee that all went to our wonderful tour guide, Jeremy.

We hope all of CBT will join the Annual Breakfast that we are always so proud to host in our own building but will be virtual this year on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am as we celebrate Yom Hatzmaut AND meeting the cast of FAUDA!!!!

Please join us at our table that day and we wish you all a zissen Pesach and good health in the meantime.

Shalom and L'hitraot-Barbra & Ruth Anne

### PANDEMIC – WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?



**Charlie Valan** 

There are so many things that all of us could talk about when thinking about what the pandemic has taught us. For some of us, it's history repeated when looking at 1918 or political undertones of how "words matter" when leaders communicate. But everyone has an opinion when it comes to more controversial subject matters like politics. So allow me to dive deeper into my own self with the hope that every one of us will reflect in our own way and make a positive out of what has been a very negative situation.

First and foremost, life is so precious. So many of us are more than likely looking at every day differently than ever before. Fear of others was something we'd benchmark based on the threat of violence, robbery, or maybe even a difference in opinion. Did any of us ever think standing within six feet or sharing air with someone would lead to a potential fear?

There have been many humorous takes shared on social media. "Once this pandemic is over, I still want some of you to stay at least six feet away," "If you drank out of an old cooler filled with ice and an alcoholic beverage in college, you're probably immune to anything," or even, "Sometimes I wonder if all of this is happening because I didn't forward that message to five people."

Did we ever think we'd see the moment when just the thought of standing in a room filled with people wasn't beyond desirable? I can't wait to be able to rip off my mask, hug those I care about with their permission (LOL), and just not think about, "Where have they been and have they been as careful as I like to think I have?" Even without ripping off the mask, I just can't wait to be able to roam with no questions in a room.

But let's even go a step further. Working at home was taboo for so many companies for the longest time. Was it trust? Was it fear of a decrease in productivity? Was it just "Old school philosophies hanging on for dear life in an electronic growing and driven world?" Bottom line is organizations that never considered work at home as a way of life have been forced to pull the band aid off those old wounds of being unsure of the effectiveness and think differently.

Many companies have already cut back on their rental space and are ready to continue some sense of "limited in house expectations." Good or bad? Well, time will tell. One thing is for certain, if people can spend less time commuting and more time working, isn't that a good thing?

I look forward to the dinners inside restaurants again, stopping at places and not running back to grab a mask, a sanctuary not only filled with those looking to pray, but also looking to share with others as we had always done in the past.

The saddest part is what we have lost. For me, I have witnessed my high school daughter graduate by jumping out of a car alone and grabbing her diploma while we applauded her from the safety of our vehicle. Her track season; the last one in high school totally canceled when it should have been the cherry on the cake of a devoted training regimen. For my oldest daughter, I've watched her dealing with the uncertainty of whether classes in her Junior and Senior Years at Hofstra would be live or zoomed. For my bonus daughter, who is also a Senior now at Hofstra, it is no different. And my bonus son, now a Junior at South Brunswick High School, making it work in a world of restricted freedoms and virtual existence.

So what have we learned? For each of us, it's all how we look at it. I have learned to appreciate the importance of togetherness like I never had before. But I have also become more sensitive about how critical it is for us to care for one another; to be sensitive to others' feelings and needs. Patience is something that, in my opinion, is not appreciated enough. All of us get it and are just as much in a hurry to return to normalcy. But that should never be done in short-sighted risk taking, especially when experts advise us against it.

We can't "blame," we must "embrace." Yes, we have lost time, but we should learn from the time we have lost. Hopefully once the world gets back to "the new normal," we will all take "what we lost" and turn it into a brighter and more appreciated future. Maybe we won't say "tomorrow" to what we can do "today."

What have we learned? Time will tell.

# 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		
	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)		
	2 LB Trimmed Chicken Cutlets	18.00	
	Whole Chicken	11.00	
	Local Delivery	20.00	







Lori Sookerman

**Shelly Wistreich** 

Please visit <a href="http://bnaitikvah.org/sismember">http://bnaitikvah.org/sismember</a> 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 \_\_\_\_



# Classical Caterers - Kosher Kitchen

NAME:				_PHONE:		
ADDRESS:						
CITY:			STATE:	NJ ZIP:		
EMAIL:						
FORM OF PAYMEN	I <b>T:</b> (four-m	eal minimun	n on all orders )			
VISA/MC:		<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	EXP. DATE:	/	
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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.



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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:

- · 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.

# **CALLING ALL MEMBERS!**

# Have you:

HAKOL

- Ever wondered how decisions are made at CBT?
- Ever thought you had a talent to help shape our shul, but no one asked?
- Believed you could help make our kehilah better?

Now you can! Please express your talents and interest to either join the Board of Directors or serve on a committee to: Adrienne.Ross@bnaitikvah.org

Who knows? You might make some friends and enjoy it!



# WAM PRESENTS...

COME TOGETHER AS B'NAI TIKVAH **PRESENTS** 



The Jewish connection to The Beatles you've never heard before.



A past President and current Gabbi of Mosaic Law Congregation, Jonathan Lightman grew up in Los Angeles listening to all the Classic Rock on the airwaves. Jonathan has uncovered many hidden gems which will undoubtedly enhance your enjoyment of The Beatles' music and help you connect The Fab Four to the Jewish People.

May 23, 2021 @ 8 PM

\$18/screen Visit the website at www.bnaitikvah.org to register online

> Questions? Email WAM@bnaitikvah.org or call 732-297-0696

Join the magical mystery tour with CBT!

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#### **Social Action**



Laura Waksmar

#### Spring Ahead

It was 75 degrees with bright sunshine today, and the temps will only go down from here in the next week, but never mind. We got a taste of spring and it will be back soon. We move the clocks ahead this weekend, so we can look forward to longer days, more sun exposure, and evening time outside; all mood boosters.

Who doesn't need that? And it's no secret that people help more when they're in a good mood. But why? Well, a few reasons, but I think the most important one is that helping others makes us feel good about ourselves, thus maintaining our positive mood. I know that is the case for me. So... stay tuned for upcoming outdoor mood boosting mitzah projects for all ages.

#### Community Collection Closet

Speaking of spring, start setting aside your gently worn adult and kids spring and summer clothing for a collection later in the spring. Please no socks, belts or bathing suits. Dates will be announced soon. We continue to collect games/ toys/ crafts for adults with developmental disabilites in group homes for ARC of Middlesex County. Contact CherylCrick13@gmail.com with questions. Thank you to those who have donated. Beginning April 1st, we will be collecting white socks for adults for Elijah's Promise clients. Call the office before coming in.

#### Gemilut Chasadim at CBT

A huge todah rabah to Steve Katz for helping our senior members get registered for appointments for the Covid vaccine. Steve not only used his knowledge of navigating the various sites out there, but went further by connecting with a hospital admnistrator to enlist her help in his effort, and she was happy to oblige.

#### Young Mitzvah Mensch Sets an Example

Speaking of vaccine help, if you haven't read this story covered by Jewish and secular news outlets, tech savvy 12-year-old Samuel Keusch from Scarsdale NY helps seniors and others find bookings for vaccines through his site: vaccinehelper.com. It started simply with help for his grandparents, then grew into help for his synagogue with assistance from his tech-savvy dad, and has now expanded to provide help for anyone. Read the story at: <a href="http://bit.ly/kvellerkid">http://bit.ly/kvellerkid</a>

#### Your Donations to the Social Action Fund

Due to the generosity of our members, donations from the Social Action fund have helped our fellow congregants in need in the last month, and have gone toward the purchase of games and crafts for developmentally disabled adults in group homes through ARC of Middlesex County.

#### Cards to seniors

Thanks to the committee members who continue to write to seniors at Park Place Center. I get grateful messages from the recreation director. Thank you also to Gilda Gildenberg, Ruth Appel, and Joanna Simon, and kids Gavin (4) and David (14) for coloring and writing cards to those isolated seniors.

#### Creators for Causes:

We are still looking for more Creators – woodworkers, jewelry makers, painters, and crafters to create and donate one or more items to be sold for a minimum value of \$30 to our members, the proceeds of which go to upcoming spring projects. The goal is for creators to have their items completed by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Middlesex Black Jewish Coalition:

The newly formed Middlesex Black Jewish Coalition advocates for definitive action on issues faced by Blacks and Jews in the county. They have a Facebook page and a YouTube Channel. If you are interested in joining, send email to <a href="middlesexblackjewishcoalition@gmail.com">middlesexblackjewishcoalition@gmail.com</a>. I hope for CBT to get involved, so contact me as well.

#### North Brunswick Food Pantry:

The director of the North Brunswick Food Pantry, Kathy Aruta, and I spoke so I could learn more about the Food Pantry and its needs. The all-volunteer staff, including Kathy, provide food to 50 households and do their distributions twice a week. Before the pandemic, clients were required to complete paperwork to prove financial need and were permitted to receive food from the pantry once a month.

When the pandemic hit, the mayor did away with the paperwork and only requires proof of township residency, and he directed Kathy to allow clients to come eight times a month that they distribute food. Clients report struggling to afford nonfood items like toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste and gas. SNAP-previously known as food stamps, can only be used for food. Donations of gift cards to gas stations, Walmart, and Target would be appreciated. Contact me to get involved or with any ideas or questions at Laurawaksman@gmail.com.

Chag Pesach Kasher v Sameach to all!

# Jam: A Spread We Put on Toast or a Viral Internet Story?



**Sydney Sookerman** 

It was a Tuesday night in February, I was scrolling aimlessly through the popular social media app Instagram, scanning the news, searching for new recipes, and Googling the next pair of shoes I might buy. I never thought I would end up seeing the story that I came across. Now keep in mind, Instagram can be a positive platform to express yourself, whether that is through one's personal life, highlighting current events, political views, and movements, or just a random puppy video that has you giving "heart eyes." But it also can be a place of negativity, where body-shaming and cyberbullying can occur. USYers last month held an event at which Rabbi Wolkoff spoke about the dangers of anonymity on the internet, where trolling and conspiracy theories abound, leading to fanning the flames of severe anti-Semitism.

I'd like to think there can be more positive than negative forces at work when it comes to social media. Instagram enables 'live' streaming with musicians, fun photos, and creative ideas. It can bring long-distance family and friends together or showcase people's amazing talents. The list is never-ending. Truly, it is the simple moments of people's everyday life experience that brings a smile to my face and ends my long workday on a positive note.

On this particular night and the days leading up to it, I see many of the young Jewish adults that I follow posting on their Instagram story a picture of the fruit spread brand Bonne Maman. At first, I didn't think anything of it and went about my day until I saw more and more people post it until my feed was flooded with this picture. Now I had to check out this post myself. We call this going 'viral.' A professor at St. Johns Law School, Michael Perino, makes a Twitter thread and says the following: "Incident in a NJ Supermarket: At the supermarket today, I found a small, elderly woman standing in front of a high shelf holding @BonneMamanUS preserves. She was having trouble finding the flavor she wanted because the jars were set back on the shelf. She couldn't read the labels. She could barely reach them. I offered to help. After I handed her the raspberry preserves, she thanked me, paused, and then asked, 'Do you know why I buy this brand?' I laughed and replied, 'Because it tastes good?' 'Yes, it tastes good.' She paused again. 'I am a Holocaust survivor.' This was not the conversation I expected on a Sunday grocery run. 'During the war, the family that

owns the company hid my family in Paris. So now I always buy it. And whenever I go to the store, my grandkids remind me, "Bubbe, don't forget to buy the jelly." I told her that that was the best reason I ever heard to buy any company's product. And then we both smiled behind our masks and went our separate ways."

Now we have all heard the many accounts of non-Jews making extraordinary sacrifices to shelter or hide escaping victims during the Holocaust and this appears to be just another. But how entirely true is this particular anecdote? After scrolling for sources on the internet about this Bubbe's tale and trying to find if there was any truth behind the story of the company Bonne Maman, nothing seems to appear besides articles about this specific Twitter thread. After reading the details from the popular website snopes.com, which verifies and debunks many internet posts, the article states "while it's true that Bonne Maman did not exist in any official capacity until after World War II, the founders of Andros, the manufacturing company that owns Bonne Maman, Jean Gervoson and Pierre Chapoulart, can trace the history of their business back to the French village of Biars-sur-Cère during the Second World War." And, while it's not entirely clear if a small town in France hid Jews or if it was a particular family with a jam company that hid Jews during the Holocaust, "it seems that the Chapoulart family has been selling fruits and nuts in this small village since the 1910s" that would eventually turn into the jam company we know today (Source: www.snopes.com). Additionally, an article from timesofisrael.com cites "many Jewish children who were being sheltered in Paris were moved to southern France after the Nazis invaded the capital city. Biars-sur-Cère is about a four-hour drive from Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, the French mountain town that is one of two municipalities honored collectively by Yad Vashem for its efforts to save Jews" (timesofisrael.com).

So was it even true that this Bubbe's family was hidden in this small town in France during the Holocaust? It is up to you to interpret this story, deem it true or not and just look at the bright side of it all. A run-in at a grocery store, two smiles under masks, and a viral Instagram post that made young Jewish adults' hearts sing and feel good about buying a quality product. That is when I realized true or not, this is like any legend that has been passed on for years where the actual details have become fuzzy but it still makes anyone who reads it feel good. Now as you do your regular grocery shopping, head over to the peanut butter and jelly section. You never know what you are going to find.

# Bat Mitzvah

**HAKOL** 



Alyssa Buckwald Daughter of Marlene & Warren Buckwald April 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Bar Mitzvah

19 Nisan - 18 Iyar



**Peyton Lawson** Son of Jenna & Eric Lawson April 24<sup>th</sup>

### Yom HaShoah Tour of Warsaw, Poland **Tour the Jewish Lives and Culture**

The Sisterhood and Men's Club are co-sponsoring a Zoom Event for Yom HaShoah on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. A professional Israeli tour guide will take us on a tour of Warsaw, Poland. He will explore with us a thousand years of Jewish life and culture in Poland via the gravestones of influential personalities, from great Chassidic Rebbes to Yiddish theater actors and secular Hebrew writers.

We will visit the only remains of the Warsaw Ghetto wall, walk the Ghetto Heroes Trail, stop at Mila 18, and see the Rapaport memorial. The tour will end at the Nozyk synagogue, the only surviving prewar Jewish house of prayer in Warsaw, Poland. This event is free, a way to remember the six million lives lost and to learn about the culture that was lost with them.

Reservations are required at http://bit.ly/hashoah

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### 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.

### B'nai Tikvah Photo Albums



**Bill Greenberg** 

In our congregation library are photo albums of events and activities over the years. Other albums are filled with photos from Sharri Shalom and Beth Shalom, our parent congregations.

Do you have photos (prints) of B'nai Tikvah events or activities (the older, the better) and are willing to donate them for inclusion in our B'nai Tikvah library albums?

If so, please contact me, <a href="mailto:sailor4498@optonline.net">sailor4498@optonline.net</a>. The best photos are those for which you can provide details (event, year, names, etc.) that can be included in the album with the photo.

This Men's Club photo was taken at a congregational picnic at Reichler Park, South Brunswick in 1993.



Jerry Edley, Jack Mailman z''l, Art Biderman, Larry Cohen, Bill Greenberg

What was the Sisterhood event and when was it held? How many of these people can you name?



<sup>\*</sup> Please send separate checks for these funds. You can make your contributions online by Clicking the "Giving" link at bnaitikvah.org

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# Donations: February 12 - March 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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Barbra & Bruce London, in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Nell Tzemeret

Arlene & Arthur Cederbaum, in honor of their granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah

Kevin & Shea Krane, on becoming the Men's Club honorees as Man & Co-Youth of the Year

Maya Blackin, on becoming the Men's Club Co-Youth honoree

Maxine & Irwin Nudelman, in honor of Alexandra's engagement to Thomas Boorstein

Scott & Debbie Rekant, in loving memory of Mickey Kaplan Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in loving memory of Edna Marion Jacknow Allen Weg & Nadine Weg, in loving memory of Sylvia Weg and Percy Ellias

Ben Gottesman & Linda Fellen, in loving memory of Beryl Gottesman Phil Welsher & Marci Oslick, in loving memory of Ida Welsher Steven Millinger, in loving memory of Michelle Millinger

# Men's Club Yellow Candles

The CBT Men's Club wants to remind you that Yom HaShoah "Holocaust Remembrance Day" is on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. This is our 30<sup>th</sup> year of participation in the program. Your generous donations in the past have allowed the program to be self-sustaining. Please consider donating again this year to help continue CBT Yom HaShoah programming.

Your bag with the yellow yahrzeit candle and a letter from the Rabbi has been delivered to you. The yellow candle should be lit Wednesday night, April 7<sup>th</sup> accompanied with a reading of the meditation on the back of the letter. This will create a moving ritual to remind us of what happened not so long ago.

A few of the events that will take place this year include:

Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am starts the reading of the Shoah – names of the victims

Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – a free virtual tour of Warsaw, Poland with an Israel tour guide co-sponsored by the CBT Men's Club and Sisterhood.

Thank you for your ongoing support for this project.

Men's Club Co- Presidents Craig Cohen and Josh Oliver

# **Legacy Circle of Givers**

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Plus other friends who wish to remain anonymous

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# **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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Full page	8" x 10½"	\$675	\$120
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1/4 page	3¾" x 5"	\$400	\$65
Business card	2" x 3½"	\$300	\$50

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Candle Lighting  2 <sup>nd</sup> 7:06  9 <sup>th</sup> 7:13	1 19 Nisan	<b>2</b> 20 Nisan	3 21 Nisan
			16 <sup>th</sup> 7:20 23 <sup>rd</sup> 7:27 30 <sup>th</sup> 7:35		Virtual Passover Dinner	PESACH DAY 7
<b>4</b> 22 Nisan	<b>5</b> 23 Nisan	6 24 Nisan	<b>7</b> 25 Nisan	8 <sub>26 Nisan</sub>	9 <sub>27 Nisan</sub>	10 <sub>28 Nisan</sub>
No Religious School	Board of	Rabbi Q&A	Lunch with Rabbi	Readings and Yom HaShoah Service		
( YIZKOR ) PESACH DAY 8	Directors	USY Board	Religious School	YOM HA'SHOAH	Birthday Shabbat	Jr. Congregation
<b>11</b> 29 Nisan	<b>12</b> 30 Nisan	13 <sub>1 lyar</sub>	14 <sub>2 lyar</sub>	15 3 Iyar	16 4 lyar	17 <sub>5 Iyar</sub>
Religious School Sisterhood USY		Rabbi Lecture	Lunch with Rabbi Religious School Falafel Ball YOM HA'ZIKARON	YOM HA'ATZMA'UT		Bat Mitzvah Alyssa Buckwald
18 6 lyar	19 7 lyar	<b>20</b> 8 Iyar	<b>21</b> 9 Iyar	<b>22</b> 10 lyar	<b>23</b> 11 lyar	<b>24</b> <sub>12 Iyar</sub>
Religious School Rutgers			Lunch with Rabbi			Jr. Congregation
Promenaders USY Hagalil	Sisterhood Board	Rabbi Q&A	Religious School	Executive Committee	School Service	Bar Mitzvah Peyton Lawson
<b>25</b> 13 lyar	<b>26</b> 14 Iyar	<b>27</b> 15 lyar	<b>28</b> 16 lyar	<b>29</b> 17 Iyar	<b>30</b> 18 Iyar	Shabbat Ends
Religious School Kadima	Ritual Committee	Rabbi Lecture	Lunch with Rabbi Religious School	USY	Lag Ba'Omer BBQ LAG B'OMER	3 <sup>rd</sup> 8:14 10 <sup>th</sup> 8:21 17 <sup>th</sup> 8:28 24 <sup>th</sup> 8:36



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