

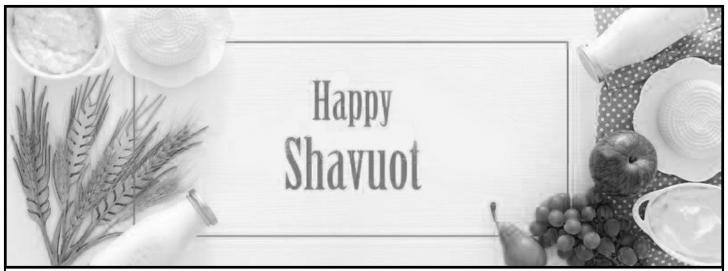


THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

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, May 3rd **Board of Directors** Tuesday, 4th Rabbi Q&A Wednesday, 5th **Lunch with Rabbi** Friday, 7th Plugged-in Shabbat Saturday, 8th **Junior Congregation** Monday, 10th Yom Yerushalayim Tuesday, 11th Rabbi Lecture Wednesday, 12th **Lunch with Rabbi** Thursday, 13th Philadelphia Walking Tour Friday, 14th **Birthday Shabbat** Monday, 17th **Shavuot** Tuesday, 18th Shavuot (Yizkor) Wednesday, 19th **Lunch with Rabbi** Saturday, 22nd **Junior Congregation** Sunday, 23rd **USY/Kadima The Beatles Connection** Monday, 24th Sisterhood Board **Ritual Committee** Wednesday, 26th **Lunch with Rabbi** Sisterhood & USY Elections Thursday, 27th **Executive Committee**

Memorial Day

Monday, 31st

From Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

Shavuot

HAKOL



www. bnaitikvah.org

Our Torah readings this month are taken from the Book of Leviticus. The entire book reflects a nearly desperate attempt to impose a holy order on the chaos of human existence.

In a word, the Book of Leviticus is an attempt to make sense out of life.

No easy task.

Even Rashi, the greatest of the Bible commentators, is stumped. At one point in the book, the Torah describes a leprosy-like skin blemish with the words, "...its appearance is not deeper than the skin." (Lev 13:4)

Rashi states that he doesn't know what this phrase means. On the face of it, the statement is incredibly odd. This is one of only 77 times in his commentary on the entire Tanach where Rashi says he doesn't know. Even odder, the words in Hebrew seem perfectly clear.

So what's Rashi's problem? What's really at issue? The answer, I think, is the notion that anything could be only skin deep.

The ancients drew a connection between inside and outside. They felt, and the Torah reflects this view, that in a well-ordered world, there would be consistency between what was on the inside and what was on the outside, between the hidden and the open.

So how could appearances deceive?

This is a question not limited to Tanach and Rashi. It is a fundamental issue, a red thread, so to speak, running through all great literature. Think of The Scarlet Letter (Hester has to wear her A on the outside/Dimmesdale has his hidden on his very flesh); Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

(the hidden monster within); The Picture of Dorian Gray, where only the portrait reveals the ugliness masked by the protagonist's handsome features; and finally, in our popular culture, the Incredible Hulk ("You wouldn't like me when I'm angry.")

To rephrase Rashi's question, how is it possible to not see what is real?

Think about Iran, and the world bending over backwards to pretend that its nuclear program will be "for peaceful purposes only." Uh-huh. Meanwhile, we are screaming (unheard), "Can't you see what a monster this really is?"

More recently, we have seen one mass shooting after another, the latest in Tennessee, the day after the governor celebrated the passage of a law eliminating permits for handguns. Meanwhile, in Atlanta, Robert Aaron Long was able to buy a gun without a waiting period and then, the next day, kill 8 people because "he was having a really bad day." Here's a guy so weird—"he loved G-d and guns"—they wouldn't let him into the Adams Family. That's not suspicious enough to keep him from buying a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol (like John Wick uses)?

As Rashi would say, "I do not understand what this means."

And then, of course, we have our own spiritual lives, the gap between what we look like and what we really are; or put differently, between what we are doing with our lives and what we wish we were doing with our lives. Yes, we need to fight the Irans of this world, and yes, we need to protect ourselves against the madmen on our streets, but we must never neglect our responsibility to bring our own bodies and souls into holy and harmonious order.

Shalom,

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

P.S.: Study with me on the 1st night of Shavuot, Sunday night, May 16th.

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

Shared Prayers of Hope & Healing



At a recent area clergy gathering, we began to discuss some of the issues and challenges that we as faith leaders have confronted during this past year, a year like no other, filled with grief, loss and the unknown. We discussed how we are conducting our various religious services and approaching the needs of our congregations. We at B'nai Tikvah offer daily prayers for healing at all of our services. Also the leadership of the congregation, including our board and auxiliary organizations, have attempted to reach every individual, with care packages and messages of hope and caring.

The question was asked: Could we offer an interfaith gathering for hope and healing? We are all so ready to put the horrific Covid-19 pandemic behind us. But can we? And if we organize a gathering, are we creating an opportunity to spread good tidings or extend the deadly virus?

We tentatively scheduled an outdoor gathering for Sunday afternoon, June 6^{th} . I suggested that, in the meantime, we initiate a series of communications, brief messages of "Hope and Healing," that could be shared with our community.

As we regularly pray, we are reminded of G-d's presence and our relationship with G-d. Whether we pray to petition, to confess, to give thanks, or to praise G-d, our introspection provides an opportunity to see ourselves and our role in our universe, our community and our relationship with G-d. Prayer helps us reset our priorities. Our ability to communicate and contribute is focused and enhanced by the time that we devote to prayer and introspection.

We learn from our prayers that G-d expects us to be partners in healing the wounds of the lonely and forgotten and to help repair the world. We learn that we are responsible to do G-d's work on earth and to appreciate our differences and celebrate our similarities.

As I collect the thoughts and prayers of our area clergy, their comments will be available on our website: bnaitikvah.org/cantor. Our faith partners are planning to do the same and I'm hopeful that our greater community will share our initiative and take the necessary steps to make this a better world.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before G-d with joyous song.

From President Marty Abschutz



I'm looking for a few members who are interested in exploring what you want and expect from your membership here. I would like members representing all aspects of our community to help me. While all of the parameters have not been worked out, I think we should get started now. This group may meet up to a handful of times over the next 18 months. Our mortgages have approximately two and a half years left, with the help of our Burn the Mortgage Fund. This provides us with an opportunity that few kehilas have to proactively plan our future together.

Please contact me at president@bnaitikvah.org with your interest and / or your ideas.

B'Shalom, Marty

Martin Abschutz President

Congregation B'nai Tikvah The Jewish Community Center of North And South Brunswick

USY and Kadima Update



Sydney Sookerman Youth Advisor

Sunday, May 2nd

Hagalil Beach Clean up!! For details email nsbrunswickusy@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 12th

NSBUSY Board Letters of Intent due to nsbrunswickusy@gmail.com

May 13th - 16th

Hagalil Virtual USY Spring Convention

Wednesday, May 19th

NSBUSY Virtual Board Elections

Social Action



Laura Waksman

Spring is no longer just in the air; it has sprung. The signs are everywhere; birds are waking me in the mornings, the grass is greener and fuller, my neighbor's three gorgeous cherry blossom trees have bloomed, my other neighbor's tulips suddenly appeared this past week, and the bees are circling. So, our spring projects need to get underway. But first: gratitude.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the Social Action fund. In the month of April, we were able to help our fellow congregants in need, and donate Target and Walmart gift cards to clients of the North Brunswick Food Pantry for essential non-food items such as toilet paper, toothpaste, and soap.

Back to spring projects. By the time you have read this announcement, we will be building the B'nai Tikvah Children of Hope Little Free Pantry on the grass in our parking lot to provide non-perishable foods and toiletries to those in need in the greater community. Thank you to Charlie and Lesley for jumping on my bandwagon and having your YES! Attitudes, and to Lynne Weiss of the Social Action committee for doing some free pantry research.

The Little Free Pantry (LFP) movement was begun in 2016 by Jessica McClard in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She established a free pantry on her church's lawn having gotten the idea from seeing several Little Free Libraries in her town. To my knowledge, there are no free pantries in any of our surrounding towns. The idea is to "take what you need, give what you can." Read about Little Free Pantries at Littlefreepantry.org.

For those who don't qualify for government assistance and those who cannot use the services of formal food pantries, they can use Little Free Pantries. By providing easy access to a donation box from those who have leftover food items they do not need, this is another approach to fighting food waste.

So...there is much to be done: planning, purchasing, building, painting, publicizing, beautifying, stocking, monitoring and ... other "ings" that I have not yet thought of. My hope and great expectation is that congregants of all ages will get involved in the creation of our B'nai Tikvah Children of Hope Little Free Pantry and will remain involved in caring for it and for our neighbors. Through these acts of lovingkindness, we will build and nurture our relationships.

And that's not our only springtime outdoor project. Our Holocaust Memorial Garden, established by young (and still young) Eagle Scout Matthew Katz 14 years ago, has suffered from neglect. Matthew, his parents, Andrea and Steve, and I have had a conversation about the need for a re-beautification

project for the mutli-purpose garden. It can be a place for quiet contemplation, prayer, committee meetings, classes for kids and adults, and garden education. As it is lit, warm weather evening use is always a possibility. My specific Social Action project is to grow vegetables and herbs in containers to supplement, in small quantities, the non-perishables in our Children of Hope Little Free Pantry. Lots of helpers of all ages and skill levels are needed and appreciated.

Card Writing to Seniors: We continue to send cheerful cards to seniors at Park Place and get positive feedback from their recreation director. Todah rabah to all the writers and to those who create the art on their cards. Todah rabah to Gavin and David Simon, our young writers and artists and to volunteers Gilda Gildenberg, Ruth Appel, and Beverly Heller.

Collections: Thank you to those who donated games and crafts to adults in group homes through the ARC of Middlesex County, and new white socks to the clients at Elijah's Promise in April. Socks are the most requested item by the homeless because they do so much walking. In May and June, we will be collecting warm weather, gently worn clothing for men, women and children. Please provide those less fortunate with clean clothing with no missing buttons or fasteners, rips or stains, or worn fabric. No undergarments or bathing suits please. Gently worn shoes are acceptable. Please place your items in thick garbage bags (not open paper shopping bags) and keep them to a reasonable weight.

Creators for Causes: We have Creators on board, but we're still looking for more to showcase their talents in the visual arts and crafts. Their creations will be up for sale to CBTers, the proceeds of which will go to our Children of Hope Little Free Pantry and the Holocaust Memorial Garden. Thank you to Toby Ehrlich, of the Social Action Committee, for your help with this project. Creators, please contact Toby at Tobybehrlich@gmail.com.

From Caryl Greenberg's South Brunswick senior center updates: If you're struggling paying for your internet during the pandemic, you may qualify for government assistance. Please check out this site:

https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

If you know of any area Jewish or secular organizations making a difference in health care or education inequity, poverty, housing, or racial justice, let me know.

Questions, want to help? Contact me at 908-812-2274 or Laurawaksman@gmail.com
Together....let's make a difference.







Lori Sookerman

Shelly Wistreich

Wednesday, May 19th, 8:00 pm - Join us for Sisterhood's 3rd virtual book chat: "The Outskirts of Hope" by Jo Ivester. RSVP to Sheryl Levine slevine0710@gmail.com by May 18th to receive the Zoom link.

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.

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Packing Purim Baskets Clean-up after program	Calling Members Shopping for Purim	Setting up for a ProgramOther (please specify):
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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 months:

- May Tuna and macaroni and cheese
- June Canned fruit and protein bars

Anytime: Peanut Butter and jelly, Soup and crackers, Pasta & pasta sauce

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!



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AS B'NAI TIKVAH
PRESENTS

BEATLES'
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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!

A Letter to My Children



March, 2021

Bobbi Binder

I see you coming down the street.

I run, so excited to see you.

My arms reach out to embrace you with a tight hug. I wake up.

It's a dream.

Sometimes I am confused as to which part is the dream...living through a global pandemic or seeing you coming down the street.

We sit down to eat Shabbat dinner together.

We hold hands to pass the blessing around the table. We laugh because at some point, we are all squeezing both hands at the same time.

There are no masks.

We sit close together.

I wake up.

It's a dream.

I am confused as to which part is the dream...living through a global pandemic or sitting at a table eating dinner with you.

I watch as she masters sitting up on her own.

I watch as she learns to hold a spoon.

I watch as she almost takes those first steps on her own.

I watch as her eyes follow her brothers moving around the room.

This part is not a dream.

This part I have been watching for more months than I care to count.

This is how I have watched my granddaughter go through her first year.

A character on a TV screen. I watch, she has no idea who I am.

I tell myself that she is too young to know the love from me that she has missed.

I watch them throw frisbees in the basement.

I watch them ride their bikes and scooters.

I watch them eat their dinner and take their baths.

I am happy for any conversation they can spare while playing - they are so young.

This is how I have interacted with my grandsons for more months than I care to count.

Characters on a TV screen.

I tell myself that they are young enough that they won't remember that I have not seen them in person for eight months.

I tell myself – the part that keeps me strong is that I am LIVING THROUGH A GLOBAL PANDEMIC. I am living.

I will remain patient knowing that this will resolve itself if we all want to keep living.

The blessings I have – my husband, our office and home, my dog, my daughters, my son, my daughterin-law, my grandchildren, my mother-in-law, my siblings, friends that I have knitted with via Zoom every single week for close to a year, my friends that I have Facetimed with almost every single week for close to a year. My indoor bike that takes me to places far away. My many yards of yarn that keep me occupied for hours and hours on end.

I miss the hugs.

I miss the kisses.

I miss the people.

I miss the contact.

I long for the day when it's all back to "normal" and I pray that we all appreciate one another more for what we have lived through.

I love you all very much.

Love

Eema/ Bobbi/Biking Bubbi Bobbi Binder (Written in March, 2021)

•

HAKOL

Bar Mitzvah



Shane Berness
Son of
Elisa & Brian Berness
May 1st

Bar Mitzvah



Jared Radoczy Son of Renee & George Radoczy May 8th

Bat Mitzvah



Sarah Levine
Daughter of
Michele & Andrew Levine
May 15th

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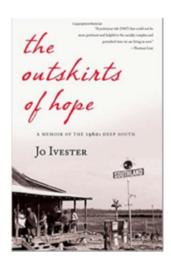
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Sisterhood Book Club

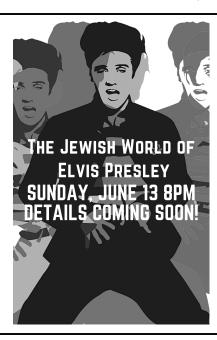


Our 3rd virtual book chat on Wednesday, May 19th at 8pm

The Outskirts of Hope by Jo Ivester

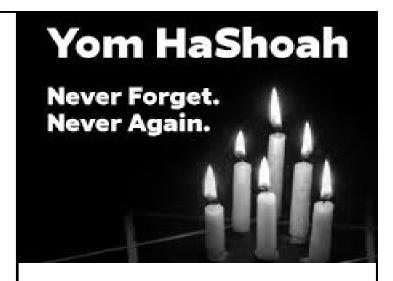
RSVP by May 18th to get the Zoom link No charge for this event.

RSVP to Sheryl Levine: slevine0710@gmail.com Receive the Zoom link via email when you RSVP.



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 call the synagogue office at 732-297-0696



Thanks to all of our readers who came in to the synagogue to read names of the millions of children and adults who perished in the Holocaust:

Arthur Cederbaum Bill Greenberg Ann Rosenzweig Laura Waksman Joyce Fishelberg Gail Reinholtz Shelly Talmud

And a special thank you to Dr. Allen Weg for the Holocaust Zoom presentation of his mother: Sylvia Mauskopf: Life of a Survivor



Rob Blackin was one of many volunteers from the Men's Club to personally deliver Yom HaShoah candles to our congregants.

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Donations: March 15 - April 12, 2021

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Andrew & Lauren Cohen, in honor of Howard Cohen's 80th birthday Les & David Offenberg, in loving memory of Sol Offenberg Helen Spector, in loving memory of Norman Spector Dave & Caryl Distel, in support of those in our community impacted by this past year's Covid 19

Cantor's Special Fund

Joe Plotnick, in loving memory of Lillian Plotnick
Bill & Ellie Greenberg, in loving memory of Leah Greenberg
Gail & Herb Sussman, in loving memory of Norman Spector
Melanie & Andrew Goldberger, in honor of Ethan's Bar Mitzvah
Judy & Mark Roller, in loving memory of Elizabeth Einhorn
Gale & Marc Dillman, in loving memory of Irene Buchbinder
Bill & Ellie Greenberg, in loving memory of Esther Krause
Debbie Stein, in loving memory of Barbara Stein
Phyllis & Allen Pinsky, in loving memory of Max & Belle Rubinstein

Bikur Cholim

Marc & Rochelle Rosen, in loving memory of Bess Blinkoff Steven Mark, in loving memory of Ronnie Joan Mark Fran & Phil Weinstein

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Passport to Israel Fund

Laura & Howard Waksman, in honor of Scott Cohen's Bar Mitzvah Laura & Howard Waksman, in honor of the birth of Miriam & Stephen Gordon's granddaughter, Darcy

The Krane Family, in loving memory of Lenore Klein The Blackin Family, in loving memory of Barbara Gray and Frances Gray

L'dor Vador

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Mark Kasdin Memorial Fund

Laura & Howard Waksman, in loving memory of Rose Talanker

Safety and Security Fund

Andrew & Melanie Goldberger, in honor of Ethan's Bar Mitzvah

Religious School Fund

Laura & Howard Waksman, in loving memory of Beryl Gottesman Stu & Debra Allen, in honor of Ethan Goldberger's Bar Mitzvah Aimee, Larry, Brandon and Ella Weber, in loving memory of Judy Weber

Adrienne & Andy Ross, in honor of Ethan Goldberger's Bar Mitzvah The Haller and Burgess Families, in loving memory of Rochelle (Chelli) Haller

Shomrei Tikvah Fund

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Business card	2" x 3½"	\$300	\$50

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Candle Lighting 7 th 7:42	Shabbat Ends 1 st 8:43 8 th 8:50		1 19 Iyar
			14 th 7:49 21 st 7:55 28 th 8:01	15 th 8:57 22 nd 9:03 29 th 9:09		Bar Mitzvah: Shane Berness
2 20 Iyar	3 21 Iyar	4 22 lyar	5 23 lyar	6 24 Iyar	7 25 lyar	8 26 lyar
			Lunch with Rabbi			Jr. Congregation
Religious School	Board of Directors	Rabbi Q&A	Religious School		Plugged-in Shabbat	Bar Mitzvah: Jared Radoczy
9 27 Iyar	10 28 Iyar	11 29 lyar	12 1 Sivan	13 _{2 Sivan}	14 _{3 Sivan}	15 4 Sivan
Religious School			Lunch with Rabbi Religious School			
MOTHER'S DAY	YOM YERUSHALAYIM	Rabbi Lecture	ROSH CHODESH	Walking Tour of Jewish Philadelphia	Birthday Shabbat	Bat Mitzvah: Sarah Levine
16 _{5 Sivan}	17 _{6 Sivan}	18 7 Sivan	19 8 Sivan	20 9 Sivan	21 _{10 Sivan}	22 _{11 Sivan}
Religious School EREV SHAVUOT	Office Closed SHAVUOT	Office Closed (YIZKOR) SHAVUOT	Lunch with Rabbi			Jr. Congregation
23 _{12 Sivan} USY/Kadima Beatles Event	24 13 Sivan Sisterhood Board Ritual Committee	25 _{14 Sivan}		27 _{16 Sivan}	28 _{17 Sivan}	29 _{18 Sivan}
30 _{19 Sivan}	31 20 Sivan MEMORIAL DAY		Lunch with Rabbi Sisterhood & USY Elections	Executive Committee		



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