

**Our Mission:** To foster a vibrant egalitarian Jewish community founded in the religious customs & traditions of Conservative Judaism; offering excellent Jewish education and community activities for all ages with commitment to Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.



## HAPPY CHANUKAH

**Wednesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Lunch & Learn**

**Rabbi Q&A**

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Latkes & Vodkas**

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>**

**USY Event**

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Fibre Art Group**

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Lunch & Learn**

**USY Board**

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Abigail Pogrebin, Author**

**Friday, 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Birthday Shabbat**

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Man & Youth of the Year**

**Sisterhood Event**

**KADIMA Event**

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Sisterhood Board**

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Lunch & Learn**

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Executive Committee**

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Sundaes on Saturday**

**USY Joins Havdalah**

**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Ritual Committee**

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Fibre Art Group**

**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Lunch & Learn**

**Rabbi Lecture**

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Chesed for Hanukah**

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Congregational Meeting**

**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Lunch & Learn**

## From Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

### A Conflict of Ethics



The Book of Bereshit (Genesis) that we have been reading is filled with stories of ethnic conflict, deceit, and violence. In fact, the Bible as a whole is replete with such stories. It makes for painful reading, to be sure, but it does reflect reality. As I'm writing these words, Chanukah is approaching, a classic ethnic conflict if ever there was one. And here in America, there are three major legal controversies brewing: the Rittenhouse trial, where a minor used an AR 15 to kill two and injure one; the Aubrey case, where three white men killed an unarmed black jogger; and the indictment of Steve Bannon, for ignoring a subpoena to testify about the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

It should come as no surprise that a similar situation can be found in Israel. And the question there as in America today, in the time of the Maccabees, and in the Bible is: how do you temper the conflict, lesson the violence, find a better way? Achieve "domestic tranquility?"

When we turn to Israel, we hear something quite disturbing. In the blogosphere, it is repeated endlessly, almost verbatim: "Israel has passed over 65 laws that work to privilege its Jewish citizens (and Jewish non-citizens) while dispossessing, displacing and discriminating against non-Jewish populations under its control."

To my American ears, "discrimination" brings up some pretty horrible images. Separate water fountains. Separate lunch counters. Back of the bus. But, but...none of that matches my experience of Israel. I've spent some serious time there. Drank from the same water fountains. Ate in the same restaurants. Rode the same buses. And went to the same schools, shopped in the same shops, visited the same zoos, etc.

So what, exactly, are these 65 discriminatory laws?

It's easy enough to find out. There's a nongovernmental organization (an "NGO") called Adalah—The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, that keeps a data base about these laws. Google it. You'll find it interesting. Because what they call "discrimination" is not what you and I call discrimination. In fact, the laws they call discriminatory are meant to have the opposite effect, unless you call "domestic tranquility" discrimination. Here are the first 7 laws they list.

1. A stop and frisk law that allows authorities to act on suspicion of weapon possession, recently amended to include suspicion to commit violence. It "adds to fears that the law will create greater scope for the discriminatory use of these sweeping powers by the police to conduct arbitrary and invasive searches of Palestinians, ..." Well, yes, sure I can understand that, but the law itself is not discriminatory at all. The application of the law must be balanced, to be sure (we had the same issue in NYC, remember?). But how does this contribute to dispossession, etc.?
2. An anti-terror law that "contains broad and vague definitions of terrorism and terrorist organizations, which may be exploited by the law enforcement authorities to criminalize legitimate political action by Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian residents of the OPT. " Again, that "may be exploited"? In addition, considering the extraordinary ingenuity of Palestinian terrorist

groups (like soaking small metal objects in rat-poison, so that when they are used as shrapnel in bombings it prevents blood clotting in the victims), I'm not sure what definition of terrorism could be "too broad." The law also allows secret evidence in court—just like U.S. law does.

3. A law allowing the expulsion of Knesset members for three reasons (1) denial of the existence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state; (2) incitement to racism; and (3) support for armed struggle of an enemy state or a terrorist organization against Israel. I don't get it. In America, government officials take an oath of office. If they betray it, they get expelled (or at least should, but let's not go there). These three actions are a violation of the Israeli oath of office. "I commit to be faithful to the State of Israel and to fulfill with devotion my cause in the Knesset." Nu?
4. A law that demands that NGOs that receive 50% or more of their funding from foreign governments state that fact in various situations, including in all of their publications, written reports to Knesset members and decision-makers, etc. This is a problem? If a government is using its money to support an NGO that is trying to influence the policy of our government, shouldn't we know that? If the Iranian, or Russian, or Chinese government is the main source of funding for an "American" "non-governmental" institution, shouldn't we know that? Here's Adalah's take: "The law aims to mark out, harass and incite against human rights organizations that express views critical to the government's policies." So the Israeli's shouldn't know if Iran is paying for the party?
5. A mandatory minimum sentence for stonethrowers "fail to account for the individual circumstances of each case." We all know that mandatory minimum sentencing is problematic. We've been reversing it for years in the U.S. But discriminatory? What exactly could those "individual circumstances" be that would change the picture?
6. A fine on parents of stonethrowers. According to Adalah, only the criminal should be punished. But in America, at least 43 states and DC now have laws against contributing to the delinquency of a minor. So what's the big deal?
7. And finally, a law that strips essential procedural safeguards from "security" detainees. I won't go into the details, but rather focus on the explanation of why this law is "discriminatory." "While neutral on its face," writes Adalah, "in practice the law is used almost exclusively against Palestinians, who make up the overwhelming majority of detainees classified as 'security' detainees." So let me get this straight. 4 out of 5 drunk drivers are males. Therefore, laws against DUI are discriminatory. See?

So, keeping a long story short, this isn't about discrimination at all. This is about an attempt to facilitate the violence and chaos advocated by Palestinian terror groups to overwhelm Israeli society, and a legitimate refusal of Israeli society to allow it.

Is there a possibility of abuse? Of course there is. Wherever there is power, there is a possibility of abuse. And exactly what to do about it is less than clear (file under: Guantanamo). But we are, thank G-d, a long way from segregated lunch counters, and don't let anyone tell you differently. If they do, they're discriminating—against us.

## From the Desk of Cantor Rockman

### Chesed for Chanukah and Acts of Kindness



*“Our masters taught: loving-kindness is greater than charity in three ways. Charity is done with one’s money, while loving-kindness may be done with one’s money or with one’s person. Charity is done only to the poor, while loving-kindness may be given to both the poor and to the rich. Charity is given only to the living, while loving-kindness may be shown to the living and to the dead.” (Sukka 49b)*

You are likely reading my message during Chanukah. The calendar has been really conflated this year, Rosh Hashanah on Labor Day, and almost another Thanksgiving! Well one good thing about this is that we always seem to be preparing for a holiday. That’s a happy inconvenience which is better than the alternative. The weight of sadness is disabling, and the joy of celebration can soothe our pain.

Our better nature inspires us as individuals and as a congregation to share our blessings with less fortunate individuals in and around our community. We are now celebrating Chanukah, definitely the favorite holiday for kids of all ages. I loved my toys, model cars and airplanes, I only developed an appreciation for latkes as I out-grew toy cars and was able to drive real ones! But who ever loses an appreciation for receiving a gift!

We are so blessed to be a part of a giving community. Among our initiatives are an annual USY food drive, all of our social action initiatives such as those led by Laura Waksman and Janice Baer. The winter coat drive and

“Help a Needy Family” drive are among the most appreciated. Our Giving Menorah to collect hygiene products, sponsored by our religious school and Better Together, has returned and our upcoming “Chesed for Chanukah,” delivering sweets to our community responders, is set for Friday morning, December 24. All of these opportunities are among the acts of loving kindness that define B’nai Tikvah.

Throughout the pandemic, we have curtailed our gatherings, especially those that have included eating together. I’m not complaining about not eating, but what I miss most is the comfort of sitting around and socializing. Maybe we could combine some of our programs and practices to reflect our innate desire to grow as a giving community.

Gathering is important, probably one of our strongest impulses. We need to feel our hunger for mitzvot by feeding our souls and caring for our sisters and brothers in need.

Why don’t we prepare meals for those in need? I’m really not sure how to make this work; somehow, I see hungry people lining up somewhere or here at CBT, to receive a meal to-go, prepared by our families. Let’s talk about how to make this work!

Have a Wonderful Chanukah!  
Cantor Bruce Rockman  
December 2021

## HAKOL — The Newsletter of

Congregation B’nai Tikvah, JCC of North & South Brunswick 1001 Finnegan’s Lane, No. 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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: Janet Weiss.

## Social Action



**Laura Waksman**

Thank you to all those who donated to the Social Action Fund last month. Your generosity enables us to continue our mission of helping our congregants and those in the greater community, who are in need.

We received about 75 donated coats in October, which Interfaith Rise and Elijah's Promise were so grateful to receive. Fida, the wonderful case worker at I Rise, told me that coats are the number one item requested by the refugees and immigrants they resettle. Todah to Shelly Talmud for sorting coats and to Larry Cohen for delivering coats.

Interfaith Rise has plenty of needs for items and volunteer time as they are setting up 4-5 homes per week for Afghan refugees. They continue to seek housing for their clients, and IRise pays the rent. If you have connections with housing or can help them search in any way, please contact [Paul@interfaithrise.org](mailto:Paul@interfaithrise.org). They are in need of infant car seats, booster seats, flat screen TVs, cribs, playpens and microwaves. Contact [Fida@interfaithrise.org](mailto:Fida@interfaithrise.org).

If you have furniture to donate: send pics and details to [furniture@interfaithrise.org](mailto:furniture@interfaithrise.org)

If you have housewares to donate: send info to [housewares@interfaithrise.org](mailto:housewares@interfaithrise.org).

Please see their website, [Interfaithrise.org](http://Interfaithrise.org), for more details and volunteer opportunities helping to set up homes, tutor, or give rides to appointments. All immigrants are vaccinated.

We are seeking volunteers to help shop for (with Social Action funds), monitor and stock our B'nai Tikvah Little Pantry. You can do one job, or do them all, one time or several times. Every contribution matters.

The beautification of our Holocaust Memorial Garden (next to the library), including the dedication and display of two Warsaw Ghetto bricks, will be a long term project requiring gardening and other help. More specifics to come.

A spring-time shul-wide Mitzvah day, with opportunities to do good inside and outside of CBT, is also in the works.

To get involved or share an idea, contact me.

B' yachad...together..let's make a difference,  
Laura

[Laurawaksman@gmail.com](mailto:Laurawaksman@gmail.com) 908-812-2274

## WAM: Ways&Means, Activities, Membership

It's been an exciting few months since the high holidays. We are bringing members into the building, new families are joining and becoming active, and we are busy planning for upcoming big (and small) events! The "Come Back to Tikvah" campaign has been a great success, giving everyone the opportunity to, once again, engage with each other, however they feel comfortable. From services to small groups, Religious School to B'nai Mitzvot and parties, and online events to off-site biking and hiking, we're getting together, praying together and enjoying each other's company.

### Welcome New Families & Friends

We are very excited that we've had six new families join B'nai Tikvah since the summer, as recognized on page 15 of the November Hakol 2021. We are happy to have you and hope you are beginning to feel the love, friendship, and warmth of our community. It has also been wonderful rekindling relationships after some time away from the building and we hope that all members, new and existing, are revitalizing their connection to our shul.

### What's coming?

It may seem like we've said it before, but we want to make sure you know about these upcoming events and have secured your spot:

**Featured Event:** Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>: A Virtual Book Chat with Abigail Pogrebin, author of the popular book "My Jewish Year." There's still time to join. Sign up today online or via the shul office. Invite your friends as well (\$18 per screen; \$36 with signed copy of book; \$54 includes signed copy of book and listing as a co-sponsor).

### Upcoming in 2022

Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>: Famed actress Lainie Kazan Virtual event. You know her from "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," "You Don't Mess with The Zohan," "King of Queens" and much more.

February: The return of a CBT favorite: Dueling Pianos!

### Save The Date

Annual Gala (Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 pm.) has moved to June in order to accommodate an outdoor event and theme, "Starry Night." Major planning is underway to make this another spectacular evening. Look for an invite from Mitch Frumkin, our Gala Chairperson, for you to participate in the committee's next Planning meeting.

### Revival of CBT's Brick Campaign

Ensure your family's legacy at CBT with your unique sentiment, etched in brick on our beautiful new walkway! Whether you choose to honor your family or the memory of a loved one, your family's name will forever be a part of our building. The new brick walkway will be revealed at our annual gala in June 2022. Updated brochures will be mailed out in December or you can order online. See page 6 for more details, including three easy steps to secure your legacy.

### What do You like?

The WAM committee needs your input! Have a suggestion for an event? Is there something that you love to do that you think others might enjoy? Let us know and we will work together on making it happen! We want your ideas and your excitement.

Andrew Goldberger and Renee & Steve Juro  
[WAM@BnaiTikvah.org](mailto:WAM@BnaiTikvah.org)

## North/South Brunswick Youth Groups

### All I Want For Chanukah Is... A Chanukah Movie!



Sydney Sookerman

Alexa, play “The Chanukah Song” by Adam Sandler. “Put on your yarmulke. Here comes Hanukkah. So much funukah. To celebrate Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the festival of lights. Instead of one day of presents, we have eight crazy nights.” Alexa, play the next song, “Playing I Have a Little Dreidel by the Barenaked Ladies.” Whenever the days of Chanukah arrive, we don’t usually say, “Oh Chanukah music is my favorite,” or “I love watching Chanukah movies” as many people may say about Christmas. Whether it’s a modern catchy tune like “All I Want for Christmas” by Mariah Carey (not a Jew), or the classic “White Christmas” written by Irving Berlin (a Jew), watching “Home Alone” with Macaulay Culkin (not a Jew), “Elf” with Will Ferrell (not a Jew), James Caan (a Jew), Ed Asner (a Jew) and directed by Jon Favreau (a Jew), there are literally hundreds of movies to watch and songs to hear all season long.

During this time, when we turn the television on, whether you’re channel surfing to ABC, Freeform, Hallmark or Lifetime, or in your car tuned to Magic 98.3 or at a shopping mall, you see and hear all things “Happy Holidays” from the end of Halloween through Thanksgiving until New Years Day. Have you ever searched the word Chanukah or Hanukkah on Netflix? The first thing that pops up is “Unorthodox.” That was a fantastic limited series but, unfortunately, not a feel good holiday tale set during Hanukkah. Next, “A Cinderella Story” pops up. Not quite sure what that has to do with Chanukah.

Now I do have great childhood memories of Chanukah and still enjoy Chanukah to this day. There is something special about each of those eight nights of gifts, prayer, lighting a beautiful Menorah, jelly donuts, delicious latkes with sour cream and applesauce. Yes, have them both in one bite! You won’t regret it. Of course, there is the inspiring story of Chanukah! But where are the Chanukah movies? I’m talking about the romantic comedy holiday movie and not any of those with the one Jewish character who is the wacky friend or outspoken co-worker with a thick Brooklyn accent. Did you know Hallmark has 40 new holiday movies this year in 2021?

You’re probably wondering why so many? How can they make that many every year? Well, if you’ve watched any of these, they all have similar plots. There is clearly a formula for this. Now there have been a few attempts at Chanukah Romantic Comedies. Two examples, and really the only ones I could find, searching the internet, are the following: “Love, Lights, Hanukkah!” - “A restaurateur receives a DNA test revealing that she’s Jewish. The discovery leads her to a new family and an unlikely romance over eight nights” (IMDb) and “Double Holiday” - “When the CEO asks Rebecca and her colleague, Chris, to plan the company’s Christmas party, she realizes they must overcome their opposing styles. So, she must juggle her work, family traditions, and nemesis to make the party a success” (IMDb). Doesn’t sound too much like your annual Chanukah?

Well, I think I might just have to make the next Chanukah movie appearing on Hallmark in 2022. I will call it ‘Shine Bright,’ where 30 year old Sarah moves to the bright lights of New York City, She is single, landing her dream job as an editor for a famous fashion magazine, and has two amazing best friends (one who lives in Brooklyn and the other is her roommate in their East Village apartment). She has a passion for yoga and finding the next best chocolate chip cookie recipe. It’s almost Chanukah, and she feels bright, but not shining. She’s walking around and it’s “holiday” time. The snow is falling, couples are holding hands, and one of her best friends just got engaged. But she still hasn’t met Mr. Right. Oh, by the way, Mr. Right has to be Jewish. She is going back home for the first few nights of Chanukah in one month (to her childhood home in Westchester, New York, just a train ride away). Will she find Mr. Right by Chanukah time? She meets a handsome, single, eligible man in a coffee shop on her way to her yoga class, and on her way back to her apartment, from the same yoga class, she bumps into a guy who was her high school friend from her Jewish youth group who always made her laugh. Will Mr. Right be the new coffee shop guy or the old acquaintance? While going on dates with both guys, will she have to balance both relationships or will she pick one? Coming December 2022, “Shine Bright” with us on the Hallmark Channel and have a Happy Chanukah!



# 3 STEPS

## TO SECURING YOUR LEGACY AT CBT

### Introducing the revival of CBT's Brick Campaign

Visit [www.bnaitikvah.org/congregation-bnai-tikvahs-brick-campaign](http://www.bnaitikvah.org/congregation-bnai-tikvahs-brick-campaign)

#### Step 1: Buy a Brick

Choose from 3 options:

\$180 - 4"x8" Brick

\$360 - 8"x8" Brick

\$540 - 12"x12" Brick



#### Step 3: See the Reveal

In June 2022, at our Annual Gala "Under the Stars," we will reveal our beautiful new walkway with your family's brick on display!

#### Step 2: Choose your Engraving

Ensure your family's legacy at CBT with your unique sentiment, etched in stone on our beautiful new walkway! Whether you choose to honor your family or the memory of a loved one, your family's name will forever be a part of our building!

Questions? Email [WAM@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:WAM@bnaitikvah.org)

CELEBRATE HANUKKAH  
BY GIFTING ISRAEL BONDS.



Give the New eMazel Tov  
Bond, Starting at \$36.  
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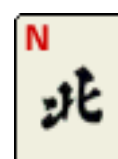


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# ORDER YOUR 2022 MAH JONGG LEAGUE CARDS TODAY

## AND HELP SUPPORT SISTERHOOD!



Order your Mah Jongg League cards now for you and your friends and be ready to play with your new 2022 cards by April. Orders will only be accepted by Sisterhood until Friday, January 7, 2022. Help Sisterhood have another successful Mah Jongg year of orders. Checks should be made payable to B'nai Tikvah Sisterhood and MUST be sent to:

Lisa Seidman  
397 Halsey Road  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

STANDARD CARD:  
# of cards \_\_\_\_\_ X \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LARGE PRINT CARD:  
# of cards \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_



# CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH MEN'S CLUB

**SERVING THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1983**



Marc Rosen, President

## Man of the Year/Youth of the Year

The annual Men's Club Man of the Year/Youth of the Year awards ceremony will be returning to CBT again this year. We are proud to announce our winners for this year are:

### Man of the Year



Brian Berness

### Youth of the Year



Bashe Rockman

Congratulations to both of you! We are proud to have you representing us on December 12, 2021 at 7:00pm



Some of our Men's Club members at the NNJR Board dinner on November 8th.

## Upcoming Events

- December 4 - Latkes & Vodkas (time TBD)
- December 12, 7pm - NNJR Man and Youth of the Year Awards
- January 6, 9pm - World Wide Wrap





Lori Sookerman



Shelly Wistreich

**Sunday, December 12th, 10am - noon - Paid Up Membership Event.** We are hosting a socially-distanced event, providing a Brunch Box full of goodies to go at the end of the program. For more information, please visit our CBT website or contact Jessica Zink: [jessicazink@optonline.net](mailto:jessicazink@optonline.net) or 732-715-4765.

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 - [JessicaZink@optonline.net](mailto:JessicaZink@optonline.net)

### Mitzvah Baskets

Let us decorate the bima with nonperishable food baskets. We also deliver baskets for use at other synagogues. Tell your local friends about this service.  
Contact: Teresa Samtur [msamtur@comcast.net](mailto:msamtur@comcast.net) or 732-821-8163

### 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. These bags are also great for an aufruf. Visit the CBT website to order your Mitzvah Baskets and Mazel Tosses 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: Teresa Samtur [msamtur@comcast.net](mailto:msamtur@comcast.net) or 732-821-8163

### Gift Shop

We are open during Religious School hours on Sundays and by appointment. Also online at <https://bnaitikvah.org/shop>  
New items are added weekly.  
Contact: Felice Ciccione 732-816-3635

Scan here to shop online →



Congregation B'nai Tikvah Presents

V I R T U A L B O O K C H A T  
W I T H A U T H O R O F

**M Y J E W I S H Y E A R**

*Abigail Pogrebin*



Thursday, December 9th at 7:30pm

## Help a Needy Family



Janice Baer

It's difficult to believe that it is already time to plan and organize our 2021 Needy Family Program. This will be our 20th year helping families in need with clothing, household items and basic necessities. Last year during the height of the pandemic, we had record breaking participation, including funds collected. We were able to help 18 families!

As we are still in a pandemic, we have given much thought as to how to proceed this year. We have decided that we will run a hybrid program. For those of you who are comfortable in shopping, you can do so; for those who are not comfortable, financial donations will be greatly appreciated and used to purchase gift cards or needed items.

To participate, please email me, Janice Baer, at [jbbd11@verizon.net](mailto:jbbd11@verizon.net), and let me know in which of the following capacities you are able to participate:

Please go to <http://www.Bnaitikvah.org> and click on "Connect" then click on Needy Family. A donation page has been specifically set up for this program.

- Monetary donation- Go to [Bnaitikvah.org](http://www.Bnaitikvah.org) and click on "Connect," Then click on [Needy Family](#). A donation page has been specifically set up for this program **OR**
- send a check made out to B'nai Tikvah-indicate Needy Family Program in memo.
- Sponsoring a family
- Sponsoring an adult and child
- Sponsoring one person
- Purchasing one or more gifts for a family

We know this has been a difficult year for all. Any form of participation would be greatly appreciated.

## Burn the Mortgage



Adrienne Ross

It is hard to believe that in just a couple of years, the dream of a "mortgage free congregation" can be realized. This dream can be realized despite the many economic challenges over the years, the pandemic, and the changing demographics of our Congregation. We are reaching out to you, our members, to help make the dream a reality.

Why this matters. A mortgage free congregation will enable us to enter a new era of sustainability and opportunity to provide services to the Congregation we have only dreamt of in the past.

Our mortgage line is the single largest item on our balance sheet. Our current mortgage is a balloon mortgage and thus securing the necessary funds could ensure we do not need to increasingly tax our membership. Due to the generosity of some who pledged during our feasibility assessment, we have been fortunate these past few years to not have to increase the membership dues due to increasing mortgage payments.

The time has come for us to reach out to the entire membership and ask for everyone to participate in our campaign. We are hoping for all congregants to participate; no amount is too small. For those who would like to use this as an opportunity to honor or pay tribute to a loved one(s), we will also identify a place of permanent recognition. Recognition tiers are:

- Silver (\$3600)
- Gold (\$3601 to \$24,999)
- Platinum (\$25,000 to \$49,999)\*
- Diamond (\$50,000+)\*

Please consider a pledge towards the campaign. Pledges can be paid all at once or over the two remaining years of the mortgage. All contributions are welcome! You can use the pledge form on the opposite page. One-time contributions, quarterly billing or annual billing is all possible. Monies raised are **ONLY** used for the mortgage line-item in the budget and are kept in a separate bank account.

Of course, please feel free to reach out to me or any of those listed below and we'll be happy to answer any questions and facilitate your pledge.

If you have questions, please call...and hope we can speak soon.

Marty Abschutz, Ruth Ann Koenick, Adrienne Ross,  
Jeff Schwartz, and Dave Offenber (chair)

\*includes recognition on donor wall in lobby



**Congregation B'nai Tikvah "Burns the Mortgage"**

Thank you for your generous support of Congregation B'nai Tikvah. This confirms your commitment to our campaign to retire our mortgage.

We/I \_\_\_\_\_ pledge to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Schedule and form of payment** (check all that apply) to support timely retirement of our mortgage. Please make all payments by 2022.

- Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Quarterly (equal installments for each billing added to your quarterly synagogue bill)
- Other payment Interval: \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to donate via security distribution. Please contact me with instructions.

**Recognition:**

For public recognition of these donation(s), please use the following name(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

We/I wish to remain anonymous.

**Payment and Tax Information:**

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.  
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Please mail to: Elisa Berness, 12 Donald Avenue, Kendall Park, NJ 08824  
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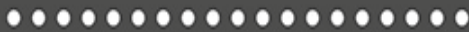
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## CBT Book Club

Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>



Lynn Biderman

This month's selection is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. It is a fictional telling of Shakespeare's son, Hamnet, who died in 1596 at the age of 11. The novel questions how that influenced Shakespeare's art.

The novel won many awards, including the National Book Critics Awards and the Women's Prize for Fiction 2020.

We'll have our discussion via Zoom 7:30 - 9:00 pm. (Zoom info to be sent the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>.)

All adult members of CBT are welcome to attend.

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## The Social Experience



Charlie Valan

We're all thinking about it. Deny all we want to, admit your participation in it, and ignore what you think you can, but at the end, all of us are being positively or negatively affected by the new world order. Social Media has given a loud voice to many, hiding behind a keyboard. But are they really hiding?

You see, all of us who have a conversation, experience our "center of the universe" at any given moment. We can be in a group; maybe large, maybe small. But when we are together, we exchange information. That can have such a wide range from our children, to current events, to what the weather is going to be. But all of us exchange.

How many of us have been taken aback, shocked, or even lost respect of friends over Social Media expression? You might not even realize it sometimes. I would be lying if I didn't admit that desire to express opinion and position. It has come at the expense of those who have dug their trench so deep that the mere fact that I would dare question their thought piece has been met with dissension beyond all typical human rights to actually justify their facts fully.

Recently, I really sat back and started reflecting on where we have gone wrong with Social Media (notice how I said, "Gone Wrong"). You see, think about what Social Media REALLY IS. By definition, Social Media: "Websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking." But in reality, Social Media is a snapshot into what is important to those sharing to communicate to others. period.

All of us have to realize that once we hit "Send/Post/Share," we have lost control of every post we make, every comment we desire, all our photos and words, of that moment forever. Within seconds, anyone can snapshot, copy, or share as they choose. Your social media choice does not end with those who you've selected to trust in the initial share. What about the "collateral damage"? What about those who disagree or decide to misinterpret whatever it was; from family photos that might have someone doing something that could be put into question to an innocent comment someone has twisted into a bigger issue (how many times have any of us had someone say, "Can you delete that photo? I don't like how I look in it").

I remember growing up LONG BEFORE social media. All of us at some time or another were drawn into a conversation we felt uncomfortable listening to. The speaker or those participating may have been insulting to a friend, horrible to a group of people, or even spreading lies that you knew were totally not true. This was "social media" a long, long time ago.

Now let's click ahead to now. All of us enjoying Social Media have those we have "let into our world" either as friends on Facebook, confirmed connection on Instagram, followers on Tic Toc or Twitter, etc.... Within those lists of people, the range of connections is probably great; work friends, childhood friends, friends we've made as we grow as parents. What do all of these have in common across the board? Well, probably when you break them all down, only that they somehow all have made a connection to you.

So when you post something, someone or you comment on something that you've posted, or just engaged, without any further action, the footprint is widespread with many different backgrounds, opinions, or even emotional connections. This is no longer the group conversation where everyone is "in the know". You have now blanketed the wide landscape of everyone you have connected with in your social media world.

And what has that allowed many of us to uncover? Bigotry, Hatred, Anti (name it)..... How many of us have said, "I've known this person for so many years and had no idea they..... (name it)"?. People have copied and pasted articles, photos, meme's, GIF, links,..... everything imaginable and have shared it with ALL THEIR FRIENDS.

We may all not agree on politics or any subject matter. How many times did someone come up to you and say, "You are an idiot for voting for...?" How many times in a discussion, did a group you were in respectfully raise generic concerns on an issue? But now, people post an article against a group of people and those expressions in the article go beyond the negative acceptance of a society whose motto is E Pluribus Unum (Out of Many, One).

Social Media has broken every rule our parents ever taught us. Never discuss politics, religion, or money. Remember that? I have slowly learned and now spend the majority of my Social Media time focusing on my family, food (yeah, I love food), trips, experiences, and friends. I have been reminded too often by others more than myself, that sometimes it's better to keep your opinion to yourself, especially when articulating it to a broad base. You might leave those outside or directly impacted to not only not agree with you, but find concerns beyond the point you thought you intended.

The world is a HUGE PLACE and made even larger when, at the moment of a simple click, you have made your voice much larger than just those you might want to communicate to at any given time. This isn't meant to say, "Closet haters should stay behind closed doors." Sometimes what we mean and what we say may not connect. But once it's no longer ours to control, all bets are off. Personally, I want to believe my family, friends, food, and pet photos can't generate horrible feedback. But as with everything, we make choices. Sadly, many I thought I knew, agree with that, but their choices have shown me things that make me wonder, "What is truly in their heart?"

## Donations: October 15 - November 15, 2021

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Beverly & Isaac Grodzinski, in loving memory of Eva Grodzinski  
 The Ostroff Family, in loving memory of Ina Segal  
 Abbey Lorber, in loving memory of her father, Sam Kahn  
 Andrew & Lauren Cohen, in honor of Rabbi Wolkoff's officiating  
 at the unveiling of Andrew's mother, Marilyn Cohen  
 Ruth Candeub, in honor of Gary Bergman  
 Audrey & Lou Flumen, in loving memory of Henry and  
 Irving Flumenbaum  
 Ruth & Allen Schechter, in loving memory of Jack Wohl  
 Nancy Asher-Shultz & David Shultz, in appreciation of  
 Rabbi Wolkoff's guidance and support  
 Caren & Barry Dworkin and family, in honor of the heart-warming  
 funeral service for Caren's mother, Shirley Siegel

### Cantor's Special Fund

Joyce & Gerald Fishelberg, in honor of Carol Eisenberg's  
 granddaughter's Bat-Mitzvah  
 Elaine Brackup, in loving memory of Anna Rubin  
 Audrey & Lou Flumen, in loving memory of Henry and  
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 Tammy & Keith Zimmerman, in loving memory of Richard Seidman's  
 father, Michael Seidman  
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 father, Michael Seidman  
 Caren & Barry Dworkin and family, in honor of the heart-warming  
 funeral service for Caren's mother, Shirley Siegel

### Bikur Cholim

Joyce & Leonard Mandelblatt, in loving memory of  
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 Helene & Gary Tinkel, in loving memory of Michael Seidman  
 Renee & Steve Juro, in loving memory of Evan Juro  
 Laurie & Charlie Valan, in loving memory of Jodi Marcou,  
 a warm and caring woman

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 Leslie, Steven, Craig & Adam Dickert, in loving memory of  
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### Passport to Israel Fund

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 Lisa & Jeff Tannenbaum, in loving memory of Jodi Marcou

### Shiva Fund

Caren & Barry Dworkin and family, in honor of Larry Cohen  
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 Lisa & Jeff Tannenbaum, in loving memory of Myron Tannenbaum

### General Fund

Joyce & Joel Gerbman, on the loss of Shirley Engel's sister-in-law,  
 Suzan Ginsburg  
 Hannah, Ben, Jeremy, Danielle, and Rami Ehrlich, in honor of  
 Gary Ehrlich's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in loving memory of Michael Seidman  
 Marcia & Gary Wesalo, in honor of CBT  
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### Arnie Miller Youth Activity Fund

The Blackin Family, in loving memory of Abraham Klein  
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 Susan Miller, in loving memory of her beloved parents,  
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 Elisa & Brian Berness, in loving memory of Jodi Marcou

### Safety and Security Fund

Carole & Bob Turkheimer, in loving memory of their beloved aunt,  
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## Donations: Continued

### Ritual Activities Fund

Natasha Rosenbaum, in loving memory of Myron Rosenbaum  
Gaye & Alan Feinberg, in loving memory of Ruth Ginsberg  
Herbert Mars & Family, in loving memory of Adrienne Mars  
Blanche Fruhling, in loving memory of Benjamin Seidenstein  
Gaye & Alan Feinberg, in loving memory of Sylvia Ginsberg  
Lisa & Richard Seidman, in honor of the Ritual Committee and the  
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### Trees for Israel Fund

Ilya & Svetlana Veksler, in loving memory of Isaak Veksler  
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### Mark Kasdin Memorial Fund

Janice & Art Baer, on the occasion of the birth of Maxine Kasdin's  
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### Shomrei Tikvah Fund

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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 various errands, such as picking up prescriptions, doing light shopping, and providing transportation to doctor visits. We are also providing Shabbos meals for congregants who are having some difficulty providing for themselves or their families.

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\* Please send separate checks for these funds.  
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"Thank You" to Margie Atwater, Bill Greenberg, Joyce Fishelberg, Gilda Gildenberg, Jay Scheuer, Ruth Appel, and Risa Stolly for making birthday calls.

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

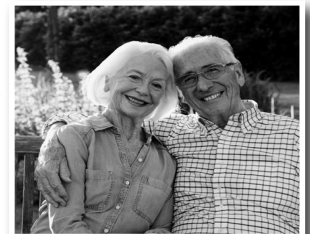
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# December 2021

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

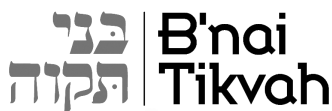
Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p><b>NOVEMBER</b> S M T W T F S 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>			<p><b>1</b> 27 Kislev Rabbi Lunch &amp; Learn Rabbi Q&amp;A 8p CBT Chanukah w/ USY &amp; Kadima 5:02p Chanukah: 4 Candles</p>	<p><b>2</b> 28 Kislev 5:02p Chanukah: 5 Candles</p>	<p><b>3</b> 29 Kislev 4:13p Chanukah: 6 Candles 4:13p Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>4</b> 30 Kislev Latkes &amp; Vodka Rosh Chodesh Tevet 5:19p Chanukah: 7 Candles Parashat Miketz 5:19p Havdalah</p>
<p><b>5</b> 1 Tevet PJ Library Men's Club  USY Event 5:02p Chanukah: 8 Candles</p>	<p><b>6</b> 2 Tevet Board Meeting Chanukah: 8th Day</p>	<p><b>7</b> 3 Tevet Fibre Art Group</p>	<p><b>8</b> 4 Tevet Rabbi Lunch &amp; Learn  USY Board</p>	<p><b>9</b> 5 Tevet Book Chat</p>	<p><b>10</b> 6 Tevet Birthday Shabbat RS Special Shabbat  4:13p Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7 Tevet   Parashat Vayigash 5:19p Havdalah</p>
<p><b>12</b> 8 Tevet Men's Club Man of the Year Kadima Event RS Special Artist Program</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9 Tevet Sisterhood Board</p>	<p><b>14</b> 10 Tevet CBT Book Club  5:46a Fast begins Asara B'Tevet 5:09p Fast ends</p>	<p><b>15</b> 11 Tevet Rabbi Lunch &amp; Learn</p>	<p><b>16</b> 12 Tevet EC Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b> 13 Tevet 4:14p Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>18</b> 14 Tevet USY Sloach &amp; Havdalah w/ Grade 8 Sundaes on Saturday Parashat Vayechi 5:21p Havdalah</p>
<p><b>19</b> 15 Tevet Chai Program</p>	<p><b>20</b> 16 Tevet Ritual Committee</p>	<p><b>21</b> 17 Tevet Fibre Art Group USY Event</p>	<p><b>22</b> 18 Tevet Rabbi Lunch &amp; Learn Rabbi Lecture 8p</p>	<p><b>23</b> 19 Tevet</p>	<p><b>24</b> 20 Tevet Chesed for Chanukah  4:18p Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>25</b> 21 Tevet Parashat Shemot 5:25p Havdalah</p>
<p><b>26</b> 22 Tevet Congregational Meeting No Religious School</p>	<p><b>27</b> 23 Tevet USY Int'l Convention</p>	<p><b>28</b> 24 Tevet USY Int'l Convention</p>	<p><b>29</b> 25 Tevet Rabbi Lunch &amp; Learn No Religious School USY Int'l Convention</p>	<p><b>30</b> 26 Tevet USY Int'l Convention</p>	<p><b>31</b> 27 Tevet USY Int'l Convention New Year's Eve 4:23p Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>JANUARY</b> S M T W T F S 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>

Hakol Rates	Artwork	Annually	Single
Full page	8" x 10½"	\$675	\$120
½ page	3¾" x 10½" / 8" x 5"	\$525	\$90
¼ page	3¾" x 5"	\$400	\$65
Business card	2" x 3½"	\$300	\$50



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