

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.

CBT monthly calendar



WEEK OF:



JANUARY



1/1-1/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1: CBT Office Closed 3: Rabbi's Lunch & Learn, 12pm Religious School 6: Shabbat Lunch & Learn JCFS - 11am-12pm, followed by Kiddush
1/7-1/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7: Religious School Jewish Women Learning Together, 10am Rabbi's Brunch Lecture, 10am Men's Club Man/Youth of Year, 1pm 8: CBT Blood Drive, 5-9pm in the gym CBT Board Meeting, 8pm 10: Rabbi's Lunch & Learn, 12pm Religious School 11: Game Night, 8pm
1/14-1/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14: NO Religious School 15: CBT Office closed 16: Sisterhood Board Meeting, 8pm 17: NO Rabbi's Lunch & Learn Religious School, 4:30pm 20: Sisterhood Shabbat NSBUSY Movie Night, 7pm
1/21-1/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21: Religious School PJ Our Way Teen Mitzvah Corp. 24: Rabbi's Lunch & Learn, 12pm Religious School 25: CBT EC Meeting, 8pm 26: CBT Shabbat Dinner, 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30pm 27: Shabbat Shirah
1/28-1/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28: Religious School/Better Together, Tu B'Shvat 29: Ritual Committee Meeting, 8pm 30: Chaverim, 12-2pm 31: Rabbi's Lunch & Learn, 12pm Religious School

details of all our events/programs/meetings, can be found on our website www.bnaitikvah.org

From Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

Just One More *Kopek*

Here's one of my favorite exchanges from Fiddler on the Roof:

[TEVYE, spoken]

And Nahum, the beggar

[NAHUM, spoken]

Alms for the poor, alms for the poor

[LAZAR, spoken]

Here, Reb Nahum, is one kopek

[NAHUM, spoken]

One kopek? Last week you gave me two kopeks

[LAZAR, spoken]

I had a bad week

[NAHUM, spoken]

So, if you had a bad week, why should I suffer?

Ah, the chutzpah! All the delicious charm in traditional Jewish culture can be found in that exchange—which figures, because it's from the song *Tradition!*

We can learn something important if we look at this exchange a little more carefully. Notice what Lazar doesn't say. He never looks at Nahum and says "What are you coming back to me for? I gave you 2 kopeks last week!" Why doesn't he say this? Because he knows that needs are ongoing, and that it's a mitzvah to give tzedakah every time you're asked if the need is pressing.

All this came to mind recently at the Friends of the Israel Defense Force breakfast that we were proud to host here at CBT. (It always gives me great pleasure when I can boast that we are the most actively Zionist congregation in our area!). Howard Gases, Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the FIDF, did the "ask" at the end of the program, and said, "If you



haven't already donated, the envelopes are on your tables." We've all heard similar statements at virtually every charity event we've attended.

But allow me to suggest that this approach is misguided. What would Nahum the beggar say? "Because you donated last week, you're not going to donate today?" Put another way, "Because I could eat this week, I don't need to eat next week?!"

If ever we needed to change our attitude about tzedakah, it's now. Normally, at this time of year, I pull out my list of charities and start writing checks. Lots of checks. And all year long, I get solicitations that go straight into recycling, because I know that next December I'm going to take out my list again and start writing checks. But I realize now that as far as Israel is concerned, that long-term schedule is a luxury neither Israel, nor I, can afford.

The needs now are so unbelievably pressing. JNF is running a 100 million dollar emergency campaign. FIDF needs about 150 million for its emergency campaign. Federation is looking for half a billion dollars.

So who cares if you already made a contribution? Now we all know that money doesn't grow on trees, and none of us have endlessly deep pockets. But no one is asking you to starve in order to give. (In fact, halachah doesn't allow you to give that much.) Next time you find yourself being solicited, the question to ask yourself is not whether you already gave, or how much you budgeted for December. The question is: could I give more? Right now? In all honesty, the answer is almost always yes.

Even if it's just one kopek instead of two.

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

From Cantor Bruce Rockman

The Window is Open - All is Forgotten

“These words that I command you this day shall be taken to heart. Teach them to your children; speak of them when you sit in your home, when you walk on your way, when you lie down and when you rise up”.

Many of you are familiar with these words from recitation of the *Sh'ma*. What are the words that we are expected to teach our children? We are commanded to teach our children words of Torah, the commandments, the mitzvot, *all* that is expected of us. Sure, I believe that we are already teaching our children some Torah values, as we understand them. I also believe that we need to know them a little better to teach them.

You may ask, are you telling me that I should teach the Torah to my children? I reply, yes. Each day as we nurture our children, we are teaching these values as we have learned them from our parents and teachers, principles that are based on lessons from our Torah. This is surely a good thing. Though we have been influenced by the teaching of the Torah, it remains unfortunate that our generation has become incomplete in the understanding of Torah, thus we are rarely able to draw on the transcendent message that Judaism provides.

The window for us to change and grow is wide open, right now. But, is the window closing? When the horrors of October 7th were first revealed, with the devastation of the brutal attack on Jewish life everywhere, I, like so many, recognized this seminal moment in our tortured history as an opportunity. This turning point in our consciences would be a game changer. The better Israel defends our existence, the ever increasing calls for our demise seem to grow louder.



The window for our own unity is open. The threat is on our doorstep. We must be united here at B'nai Tikvah-the window is wide open for each of us to forget about our differences and unite in solidarity, with the opportunity to work for the secure future for the Jewish people everywhere. Forget any personal differences; agree to disagree and take on this most important initiative; we must keep the window wide open.

As soon as the attacks began, the wide political gulf between Israelis seemed to disappear, united in hope for the survival of our homeland prevailed. I'm certain that in time, many Israelis will return to their political corners; still what we experienced made us all recognize that this existential fight was ours to battle together. A united B'nai Tikvah is a reminder of our common call, our hope to be a free people in our own country and throughout the world.

We are all B'nai Yisrael, the Sons and Daughters of Israel. We are also B'nai Tikvah, the Sons and Daughters of Hope. B'nai Tikvah is a diverse group of Jewish families with a variety of points of view. The goal for us is to create a vibrant place where our understanding of Judaism is studied, nurtured, amplified and valued.

B'Shalom-Worship the Lord with Gladness
Ahm Yisrael Chai!

Cantor Bruce Rockman
January 2024-Shevat 5784

From President Charlie Valan

A JEWISH COMMUNITY NOW MORE THAN EVER



I'm beyond positive at this time that all of us are struggling with understanding the reaction of way too many to the current conflict in Israel. Sure, many of us would agree as well that this is far beyond the war in Israel alone. This moment in our history has proven once again to put the reaction on releasing from the closets of the world the all out anti-Semitism that rages in the absent souls of many on the planet where we all breathe the same air. It never fails from my perspective that those individuals wait for the moment and twist the narrative as they pounce on their next opportunity to be able to release the same degree of hatred that has never left their poorly educated mountain of disinformation and general lack of historical perspective.

Over the last few months, we have seen so many incidents that are beyond "human like". We have seen so many fabrics of "Jewish Life" being impacted that I sometimes need to really control a bit of my own anger. The one that is really standing out to me was the incident in Philadelphia with Goldie Falafel and the group that chose to protest outside like this incredibly devoted business that has existed in the Philadelphia community for years is at the center of anything more than serving Kosher food to an accepting city. Sorry, whatever position you choose, this was pure anti-Semitism to the core. Historically, people with knowledge said, "This was what happened in Germany pre-war."

It really doesn't matter how large the Jewish population is anywhere in the world or how it's broken down geographically. What it does speak loud and clear to is how important it is for us as Jews to support our Jewish Community in any way, means, or involvement we feel we are devoted to invest. But the most important word in that entire statement is 'Community'. A community is not a single family or can truly be defined as several families. It's many families like what we have right here at CBT. A community like CBT always should remind us that in our Judaism, we are not alone. There are many supporters and there is strength in the numbers when you walk into our building and know that in your Judaism, that love is right here.

On December 3rd, we had an incredible experience constructing a Menorah entirely of legos (Thank you Melissa and Scott Kessler for indentifying and arranging such an

opportunity). What made this event so special was that it involved ALL OF US that were there. The youngest of kids and oldest of adults all together built this. The same way all of us need to embrace and enrich ourselves in our community through our presence and participation. I will keep on saying that post COVID, keeping Zoom as an offering to the congregation was designed as a fallback for a moment when you were geographically unable to participate in person or felt that you had an illness that you didn't want to share with others. But a virtual experience is not a community and Zoom wasn't intended to be an escape from togetherness.

At this moment in time, it is more important than ever for all of us as a community to be together, support one another, offer a variety of gathering opportunities, and to show the entire area that we are an incredible village of compassion, sharing, caring, and love. When we were all together on December 3rd, you could see the smiles, feel the community, and not only gather together, but share in a religious experience that indeed defines our uniqueness. No one will ever do that for us but us. Our community depends on all of us being in this together.

As we go through the next bunch of months, you're going to hear about many groups that need your support as well as your support for your CBT Synagogue. You will see from all of them they each have their own unique mission. No one would expect any of us to think we'd be expected to help all of them (but no one would object to that either). If you're able, support which one(s) speak to you the most. Our likeness is in our Support of Judaism. But within that fabric of who we are, we also have our unique element of compassion and passion. The more options hopefully generate something that shouts to you.

Wanted to also thank everyone for their understanding of the current state of affairs in our world that has led us to step up our security personnel and the contributions that have been assessed to ensure we can add a layer of much appreciated protection. All of us are hoping for peaceful solutions and we will adjust accordingly. But I want to state again how important it is for all of us, for our entire community, to Come Belong To Tikvah and when we say come belong, it means to gather right here together. Because now more than ever, a strong Jewish Community is our best support network.

Charlie Valan



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH
MEN'S CLUB

SERVING THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1983

Men's Club News



Craig Cohen & Brian Berness, Co-Presidents



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH
MEN'S CLUB

SERVING THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1983

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs North NJ Region
Congratulates and celebrates for 2023

Terry Katz



CBT Men's Club Man of the Year

Jordyn Weintraub



CBT Youth of the Year

Mazel Tov!!!

When: Sunday, January 7th, celebration starting at 1:00 pm

Where: B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Cost: MC members \$52, non-members \$70;

Checks payable and mailed to "CBT Men's Club"

(Receipt requested prior to the event sent to B'nai Tikvah or placed in MC mail slot in office)

Confirm attendance/questions to Steve Katz skatz56@aol.com

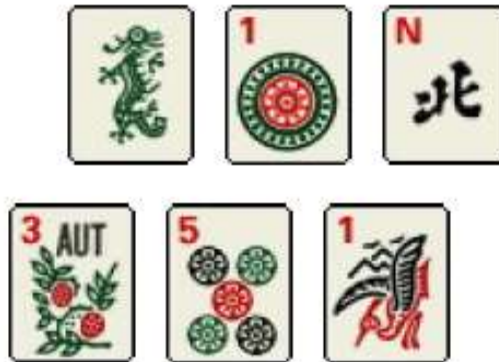
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Cheryl Crick
President



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Lisa Seidman
397 Halsey Road
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

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TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

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(Please Provide Complete Info Requested Above)

Winter of Fun..with CBT!



WINTER OF FUN

2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN
11

GAME NIGHT
8PM

FEB
08

TRIVIA NIGHT
8PM

MAR
03

BOWLING @ KNOB HILL
2PM

MAR
23

PURIM KARAOKE NIGHT
8PM

QUESTIONS? WAM@bnaitikvah.org

The Gala is Back! - March 9

Annual Gala

March 9, 2024

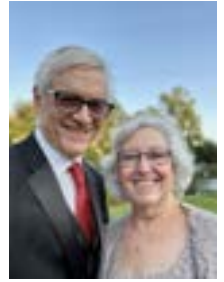
Let's all come together to celebrate our Sweeter than Wine Honorees, Marty and Marci Abschutz on March 9, 2024. Details will be out soon. We hope to see everyone there for a night of schmoozing, dinner and dancing. We'd love to have more voices involved in the planning so let us know if you would like to join the committee steering the event. If joining a committee is not your thing you can still help. To make the night a success we need prizes for our silent auction and advertisers for our journal. Let us know if you can help with one of these items. You just need to send an email to gala@bnaitikvah.org or reach out to one of the gala co-chairs, Nancy Asher-Shultz, David Shultz or Marc or Bobbi Binder! Let's work together to make this night a success for our community!

*Honoring
Marci & Marty
Abschutz*

About our Honorees

Save the date: March 9, 2024 and join us at B'nai Tikvah's annual gala.
An event not to be missed!

Let's get to know Marci and Marty Abschutz!



Since the Abschutz's are being honored this March at our annual gala, we thought it would be nice for you to get to know them and then come out and celebrate! We will concentrate on Marci and Marty's B'nai Tikvah life this month. Stay tuned – next month we will focus on hobbies and interests.

If you have anything that you would like to know, please email gala@bnaitikvah.org with your interview questions and we will consider using them next month!

Committee: How long have you been members of CBT?

Abschutz: This year marks 36 years! Such a lucky number.

Committee: Did you visit any other synagogues before joining CBT?

Abschutz: No. Our friends, Marty & Marcie Kaminker, recommended CBT. We came, we saw, we stayed.

Committee: We have heard that you have both been very active members of CBT. If at all possible, can you list the committees or positions that you have held? And what is it about you that compels you to volunteer?

Abschutz: Answering the last question first, many years ago, when I (Marty) was a teenaged volunteer, someone told me that the same people always volunteer. Marci and I represent that ethic.

Among our positions at CBT have been:

Sisterhood Vice President
Sisterhood fundraising Vice President
Office Volunteer
CBT Immediate Past President
CBT President
CBT Budget & Finance Committee, Chair
CBT Vice President, Administration
Chair of the school committee

Committee: What's your favorite thing about CBT?

Abschutz: The sense of family and community we experience with and from our fellow members. I (Marty) have been a regular Friday night attendee for many years. I mention that because when I am at that service, I have a real sense of belonging.

Now that the nitty gritty stuff is out of the way, let's see if we can get to know you on a more personal level.

Shabbat Dinner - Tu B'Shabbat



Shabbat Dinner Series

Tu B'Shabbat

Join us for a home-cooked meal in celebration of the land of Israel and the importance of our environment.



Shabbat Dinner will be followed by Tot Shabbat & Kabbalat Shabbat Services.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2024
at 6:00 pm

Members: \$20/Adult
Non-Members: \$25/Adult
Children: \$10 (3-13) | Free Under 3

BNAITIKVAH.ORG/SHABBATDINNER

Save the Date!
Feb. 23, 2024
Tropical Luau
Shabbat

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
1001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
Lesley | lesley@bnaitikvah.org | 732-297-0696
www.bnaitikvah.org

Shabbat Dinner Sponsors



A very special
THANK YOU
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Shabbat Dinner Sponsors

Sabbath Queen

Lauren & Andrew Cohen

Shabbat Blessings

Marci & Marty Abschutz

Gale & Marc Dillman

Meryl & Gordon Heit

Melissa & Scott Kessler

Norlyn & Dennis Kessler

Ruth Anne Koenick & Paul Herman

Adrienne & Andy Ross

Amanda & Harry Uniman

Diane & Howard Uniman

Shabbat Shalom

Cindy & Neal Gittleman

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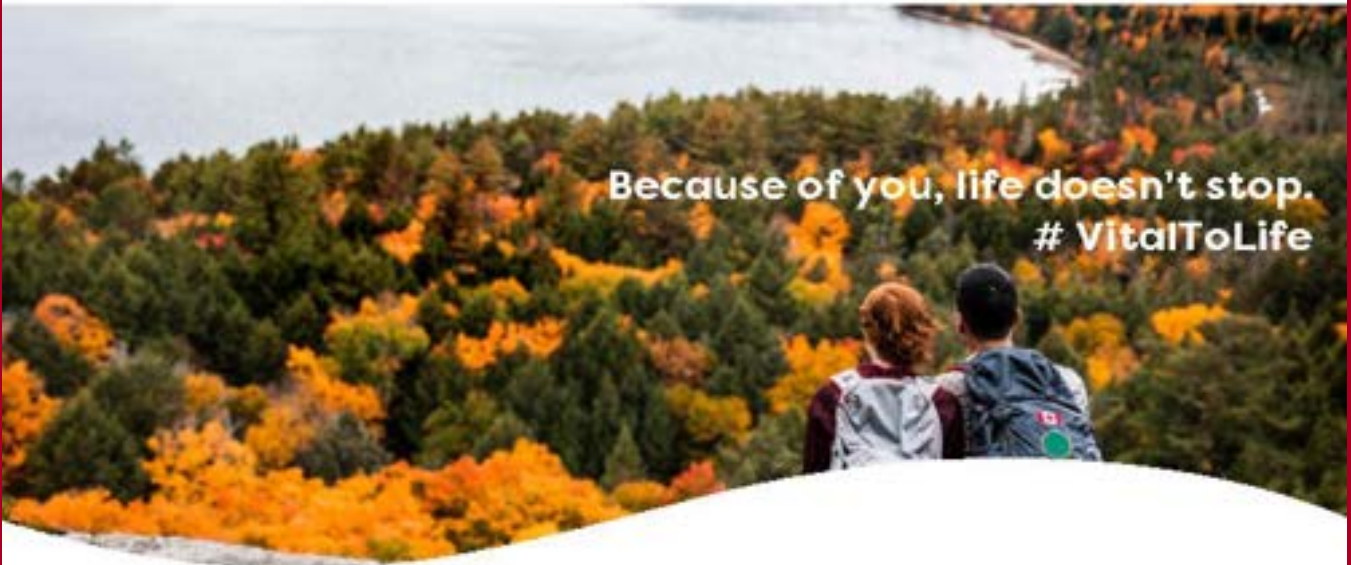
856-396-9500



@MartineKatzScanlonSchimmel

Blood Drive - January 8

Blood Drive



Because of you, life doesn't stop.
#VitalToLife

Sponsored By:
**Congregation
B'nai Tikvah**

Gymnasium

Monday, January 8, 2024
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

1001 Finnegans Lane
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Appointments strongly recommended

You may also make an appointment using the link below or QR code:
https://donor.cbcblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/56711

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2 Call our Customer Care Center at 1-877-258-4825

Donor Guidelines:

- * Weigh at least 110 lbs
- * Bring ID
- * Eat a meal before donation
- * Drink plenty of water before and after donation

Ann
BLOOD RECIPIENT:

"I wish I could tell my donor how grateful I am for your selfless act. You may have wondered what became of your donation well, it saved my life."



* Donors must be enrolled to participate.

Shabbat Shirah - January 27



Shabbat Shirah

A Shabbat of Song

January 27, 2024

Shabbat Shirah is the Shabbat of Singing, when we celebrate the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, a very musical moment in our Jewish history.

At B'nai Tikvah, we highlight this Shabbat by creating a service brimming with special music and re-enacting the joyous crossing celebrating Moses, Aaron and Miriam leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Following services, we will gather for a festive lunch, celebrating Tu Bishvat, Jewish Earth Day.



CBT Book Club



CBT Book Club

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 6, 7:30pm.
We will be discussing *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein.

This is an in-person meeting only, no Zoom.

Happy reading,
Lynn Biderman, CBT Book Club Chair

2024 Dates:

April 9: *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett

June 18: *Valley of Amazement*, by Amy Tan

August 20: *The Kitchen House*, by Kathleen Grissom

For information contact Lynn Biderman: 732-439-9999 or
r.lynn.biderman@gmail.com.



Virtual Programming



Join us for our 2nd 3-Part Series on Jewish Hollywood



Nov 30 @ 8:30pm In The Beginning



The American film industry was started primarily by Jews who had emigrated from eastern Europe and settled in cities like New York and Chicago, supporting their families by dealing in everything from clothing to food to jewelry. Transfixed with the flourishing of nickelodeons and storefront theaters in the early 20th century, interests for a number of them shifted to the entertainment business. Soon, some made their way to Southern California, where they opened the large-scale motion picture studios that became Paramount, MGM, Warner Brothers, 20th Century Fox, Columbia and Universal. Discover how men like Zukor, Laemmle, Mayer and Cohn began Hollywood with their ambition, ingenuity and keen instincts

Jan 18 @ 8:30pm Funny Girls: Part 2



It was clear from the outset that we could only cover so many laugh-worthy ladies in our first edition, so here's another collection of uproarious Jewish women for you to nibble on! We've got it all covered here, from movie stars like Oscar winners Goldie Hawn and Judy Holliday to TV favorites like Fran Drescher and Golden Girls Bea Arthur and Estelle Getty. We also make room for standup sisters Rita Rudner and Elayne Boosler to raunchy mirth makers like Sophie Tucker and Rusty Warren. All this and the titter-worthy talents of Sarah Jessica Parker, Lainie Kazan and more!

Feb 22 @ 8:30pm Those Were The Days



From Barry Levinson's Diner, Tin Men and Avalon and Woody Allen's Radio Days and Bullets Over Broadway to the much-beloved My Favorite Year, The Chosen, Brighton Beach Memoirs and An American Tail. we present a collection of nostalgic Jewish films that affectionately look back on the good old days of yesteryear. We also discuss their roots in the time-honored tradition of Jewish storytellers like Sholom Aleichem, Chaim Potok, Philip Roth, Michael Chabon, Cathleen Schine and others, and then give some attention to such sentimental TV shows as Brooklyn Bridge, The Goldbergs and The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.

Once again, we welcome back our program hosts Irv & Laurence...

Irv Slifkin

- Teaches film and journalism classes at Temple University and Rowan College.
- Author of the books Filmadelphia: A Celebration of a City's Movies and Groovy Movies: Far-Out Films of the Psychedelic Era.
- Writes for The Philadelphia Inquirer, Entertainment Weekly, and more!



Laurence Lerman

- Worked with MGM, Sony, Music Box Films, and Kino Int'l, where he helped launch the home entertainment division.
- Has written for Variety, Entertainment Weekly, The Morning Call and Video Business Magazine, where he served as a Senior Editor for 15 yrs.
- Is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of DiscDish.com, a popular Blu-ray and DVD website offering reviews, news and interviews.



There is no charge for this series, but RSVP's are required.

Please RSVP to Lesley@BnaiTikvah.org

Member News

The congregation wishes Mazel Tov to:

Terry Katz, on being named 2023 CBT Men's Club Man of the Year

Jordyn Weintraub, on being named 2023 CBT Men's Club Youth of the Year

The congregation extends condolences to:

*Brenda and Mark Sherman and family, on the loss of Brenda's mother,
and our dear member, Selma Linefsky*

Ruth and Allen Schechter, on the loss of Ruth's brother, Stephen Wohl

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Gift Cards/Scrip Available for Purchase



Scrip/Gift Cards are available for purchase at the CBT office every day, at Board meetings, and during religious school hours on Sunday mornings. Cash and check are preferred methods of payment, but we do also take credit cards. We have ShopRite, Stop & Shop and Home Depot cards in stock, and can order others, upon request.

Here are some facts about our Gift Card program:

Over the last fiscal year, Gift Card profits to CBT were over \$3700
Over \$1230 was given back to members in dues' credits
\$79K in gift cards were purchased by ONLY 39 member families—less than 13% of our membership.

Can you imagine if more of you purchased gift cards?
PLEASE consider purchasing gift cards/scrip. We do our best to make them as accessible as possible.

Call the CBT office to make arrangements to pick them up, or have them delivered to you. THANK YOU!





PICKLEBALL at CBT

**Tuesdays & Thursdays
6:30-9pm**

If you are interested in playing, please let us know through the CBT Pickleball WhatsApp group. Not a member of the WhatsApp group? TEXT Barry Safer (732-407-8429) with your name, to be added to the group.

If you'd like to make a donation to help offset costs, please reach out to Barry.



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- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Specific Phobias
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195 Columbia Turnpike, Suite 120, Florham Park, NJ 07932

Junior Congregation Family Service (JCFS)

CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH PRESENTS

NEXT SERVICE: JANUARY 6, 2024

FOR ALL AGES!

*THE SERVICE IS RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN AGES 5+ BUT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY! ADULTS ARE REQUIRED TO STAY.

J.C.F.S.

SERVICES 11AM-12PM • LUNCH TO FOLLOW

Jr. Congregation Family Service

SAVE THE DATES: 2/3/24, 3/2/24 & 4/6/24

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BARRY SAFEER AT SAFEER@COMCAST.NET

Game Night - January 11



Adults Only

GAME NIGHT

**Thursday,
January 11, 2024**

7:45PM
(after minyan)

BYO GAMES & BOOZE

We'll provide snacks & some games!

RSVP to WAM@bnaitikvah.org
Please let us know what game you'll be bringing!



Social Action Committee

Social Action Happenings:

Thanks to the generous donors to the Jodi Wexler Marcou Social Action Fund, we helped our members in need in December. We also held our Chaverim program for our seniors on November 28th with lunch and a performance by the Odessa Klezmer Band. Thanks to Ilene Karp for contributing to the performance from the Allen Karp Fund for Music. Thanks to Dot Cohen for creating beautiful center pieces for the tables! Thanks to Shelly Wistreich for volunteering. We also held our Chaverim program on December 19th, with lunch and a performance by violinist, singer and composer Efrat Shapira who brought us Jewish music from around the world.



Save the Date: January 30th Chaverim: Rabbi Wolkoff will speak. The topic is to be determined.

We collect Kosher food pantry items for Jewish Family Services year-round. The large wicker trunk is located outside the office near the blue double doors.

Together...we can make a difference.

Laura Waksman, Chairperson

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Bikur Cholim Committee

Bikur Cholim – We're Here for You

Bikur Cholim comes from the heart. We all work on this committee because we care so much about our Congregation. Whether we provide a ride to a doctor's appointment, do light grocery shopping, deliver a Shabbat dinner, call Super Seniors once a month or send a Bikur Cholim get well card and call you, it is our pleasure.

The Mission of the Bikur Cholim committee is to provide comfort and support to the members of the CBT community who are ill, homebound, isolated and/or otherwise in distress. We take this very seriously.

Please feel free to call me if we can support you: Jill Stone, 732.306.5731.

We hope you don't need the following items, but they are available to borrow. Durable Medical Equipment includes canes, crutches, knee scooter, walker and wheelchairs. Please call Lesley, in the office, and she will check out whatever you need.

Thank you,
Jill Stone, Chairperson
On behalf of the Bikur Cholim Committee

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Missed Connections by Laura Waksman

On Sunday, November 19th, I had planned to attend the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom east coast conference at Rutgers for the first time, as a nonmember, never having attended any of their events. The Sisterhood, as I wrote in last month's Hakol, is a national Jewish Muslim women's peace organization with chapters in Canada as well. Well, we know what happens when we make plans. My husband Howard tested positive for Covid the day before, and though I tested negative, I chose not to attend and potentially spread a contagious virus that I might be brewing. All was not lost. I remembered reading something about attending virtually, and with one email Saturday night, a wonderful staff person got me set up to attend via Zoom.

My impression throughout the day was that, although learning and thought-provoking speakers and discussions were an important part of the day, during these precarious times it was, (and is), fostering connections that was the key message at the conference. And I missed out on that- completely.

Had I been there in the room of 160 women, observing facial expressions, and sensing the emotions around me when Roberta Elliott, the Jewish board president, and a daughter of a Holocaust survivor, and Tahija Vikalo, the executive director, a Muslim from Bosnia, and survivor of the siege of Sarajevo spoke, I likely would have been in a state of emotional overwhelm. You can see a moving brief video of an interview with

NBC news they did after October 7th on NBC news' YouTube channel. Put Sisterhood Salaam Shalom in the search bar. Roberta and Tahija talked about this being a very painful time, and that without each other and the Sisterhood they could not get through this. At times when they don't want to talk, they push through and keep talking because they know the importance of seeing humanity in each other.

Wendy Goldberg spoke inspiringly of the Tri Faith Initiative (Trifaith.org), a synagogue, mosque, church and community center which sits on 38 acres and which she co-founded in Omaha, Nebraska in 2020. Its mission is "To cultivate inclusive environments to advance interfaith relationships and understanding." As she spoke of her background and realized dreams, I know the "wow" feeling I felt and that must have been expressed on my face, would have been reflected back had I been observing the 160 women attending in person.

Despite missing out on all the opportunities of in-person attendance, I still sensed the energy of the day and grasped the take-aways. We must cultivate more empathetic societies. There is a crisis of dialogue. We cannot ignore the rise in hate and other "ism", as this will determine the public health of our society and children for years to come.

I've joined. Sospeace.org.



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Thank you...from North Brunswick Township Food Bank



Helping Other People Eat

The North Brunswick Township Food Bank

15 Linwood Place North Brunswick, NJ 08902

November 27, 2023

B'nai Tikvah

Attn: Cantor Bruce Rockman

1001 Finnegans Lane

North Brunswick, NJ 08902

To the Congregation of B'nai Tikvah:

Please accept my deep appreciation for your generous donation to the food bank.

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the opening of our Food Bank. Since 1996 we have provided **H.O.P.E.** – **Helping Other People Eat** – for thousands of North Brunswick residents as we witness a huge increase in the number of people we serve.

This time of year can be particularly challenging for families as they struggle to deal with extra expenses during the holidays. Thanks to the outpouring of support from people like you, we can provide food for those who need our help.

On behalf of our food bank volunteers, I want to extend to you our heartfelt gratitude along with our wish that you have a happy and healthy holiday and New Year.



Kathy Aruta

President, North Brunswick Township Food Bank

Donations: October 16 - November 14, 2023

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Phyllis Rich, in memory of her dear husband, Howard Rich
 Brenda & Mark Sherman, in appreciation of Rabbi Wolkoff, for officiating at the funeral of Brenda's mother, Selma Linefsky
 Linda Fellen & Ben Gottesman, Marina Fastovskaya, and Igor Sleyner, in honor of the wedding of their children, Evan and Gabby
 The Uniman Family, in memory of Joseph Uniman
 Mindy & Marty Angstreich, in memory of Diane Coopersmith
 Dorothy & Larry Cohen, in appreciation for *Donuts for Daveners*
 Melanie Margolis, in memory of Lillian Siegel
 Janis & David Hoffman, in memory of Janis' mother, Ruth Candeb
 Steven Mark, in memory of Ronnie Mark

Cantor's Special Fund

Brenda & Mark Sherman, in appreciation of Cantor Rockman, for officiating at the funeral of Brenda's mother, Selma Linefsky
 Linda Fellen & Ben Gottesman, Marina Fastovskaya, and Igor Sleyner, in honor of the wedding of their children Evan and Gabby
 Toby & Gary Ehrlich, Mazel Tov to Lois and Jerry Kaminsky-Shulman, on the engagement of Frankie and Dustin
 Sandy, Yitzhak, and Dina Sharon, in memory of Helen Brook
 Mindy & Marty Angstreich, in memory of Diane Coopersmith
 Naomi & Andrew Jackenthal, in appreciation for officiating Doris Jackenthal's funeral

Ruth-Ann Breitler Bikur Cholim

Audrey & Louis Flumen, in honor of Bobbi and Barry Freedman
 The Ostroff Family, in memory of Ina Segal
 Wendy & Mitchell Rosen, in memory of Doris Jackenthal
 Herb Mars and Family, Mazel Tov to Linda Fellen and Ben Gottesman on the marriage of Evan and Gabby
 Francie & Gary Turner, in memory of Ruth-Ann Breitler
 Janet Weiss, in honor of Margie Atwater
 Herbert Mars & Family, in memory of Adrienne Naomi Mars
 Herbert Mars & Family, in memory of Anna Silverberg
 Herbert Mars & Family, in memory of Mollie Sobel
 Debbi & Scott Rekant, in honor of the marriage of their son, Scott Rekant, to Amy Schumacher
 Debbi & Scott Rekant, in honor of the engagement of Julie Gordon

Jodi Wexler Marcou Social Action Fund

Lisa & Gary Warner, in memory of Selma Linefsky
 Tammy & Keith Zimmerman, in memory of Selma Linefsky
 Amy & Cliff Smith, in memory of Selma Linefsky
 The Ostroff Family, in memory of Ina Segal
 Amy & Cliff Smith, in memory of Murray Horowitz
 Dina Sharon, in honor of her wonderful Ema and Abba, Sandy and Yitzhak Sharon
 Beverly Heller, in memory of Selma Linefsky, Brenda Sherman's mother
 Cindy & Neal Gittleman, in memory of Selma Linefsky
 Audrey & Louis Flumen, in memory of Estelle Bach
 Audrey & Louis Flumen, in memory of Irving Bach
 Barbara Mailman, in memory of Jack Mailman

Ritual Fund

Joyce & Gerald Fishelberg, Mazel Tov to Linda Fellen & Ben Gottesman on the marriage of Evan & Gabby
 Lisa & Jeff Tannenbaum, in memory of Myron Tannenbaum

Yahrzeit and Tzedakah Fund

Natasha Rosenbaum, in memory of Howard Rosenbaum
 Natasha Rosenbaum, in memory of Doris Monash
 Natasha Rosenbaum, in memory of Myron Rosenbaum
 Candice, Craig, Emilee, & Sydney Botnick, in memory of Elliott Botnick
 Betty & Marvin Stark, in memory of Louis Golden
 Betty & Marvin Stark, in memory of Esther Stark
 Howard Kalish, in memory of Albert Kalish
 Sylvia Shore-Katz & Terry Katz, in memory of Mary Katz
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in memory of Edna Marion Jacknow
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in memory of Solomon Gerbman
 Amy & Mitchell Schreck, in memory of Marlene Rautenberg
 Diane & Jordan Rosuck, in memory of Cheryl Gelfand
 Debbi & Scott Rekant, in memory of Ira Custman
 Debbi & Scott Rekant, in memory of Mickey Kaplan
 Martin Raschkovan, in memory of Linda Katz
 Barry & Caren Dworkin, in memory of Robert Dworkin
 Beverly Reimer Mazzaro, in memory of Harold Reimer
 Ellen, Jerry and Alissa Platz, in memory of Robert Lepowsky
 Liliya Shablya, in memory of Moisey Prupes
 Stephen Breitkopf, in memory of Marilyn Breitkopf

Shabbat Luncheon Fund

Arlene & Arthur Cederbaum, in memory of Max Eisenberg
 Linda Fellen & Ben Gottesman, in honor of the wedding of Evan and Gabby
 The Uniman Family, in memory of Joe Uniman
 Gale Dillman, in honor of her two Hagbahs!
 Charlie & Laurie Valan & Family, in loving memory of Charlie's father, Harold
 Cheryl & Myron Asnis, in memory of Myron's father, Gordon Asnis
 Barbra & Bruce London, in honor of Phyllis Pinsky's birthday

General Fund

Jack Blackin, in memory of Diane Blackin
 Linda Fellen & Ben Gottesman, in memory of Doris Jackenthal, Andy Jackenthal's mother
 Barbara Korbman, in appreciation for the honor of an Aliyah
 Marcie & Steven Kfare, Mazel Tov to Linda Fellen and Ben Gottesman on the marriage of Evan and Gabby
 Marcie & Steven Kfare, Mazel Tov to Paul and Nancy Zankel on the marriage of Sam and Megan

Arnie Miller Youth Activity Fund

Shelly & Ken Wistreich, in memory of Selma Linefsky
 The Krane Family, in memory of Abraham Klein
 The Krane Family, in memory of Joan Krane

Donations Continued & Donation Form

Shomrei Tikvah Fund

Paula & Aaron Kondioti, in memory of Brenda Sherman's mother, Selma Linefsky
 Marci & Marty Abschutz, in memory of Selma Linefsky
 Michael Greenfield, in memory of Selma Linefsky
 Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, condolences to Brenda Sherman on the death of her beloved mother, Selma Linefsky
 Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, Mazel Tov to Allison and David Nagelberg on the engagement of Jesse and Simone
 Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, Mazel Tov to Nancy and Paul Zankel on the marriage of Sam and Megan
 Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, Mazel Tov to Shelly and Ken Wistreich on the marriage of Brian and Ruby
 Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, Mazel Tov to Debbi and Scott Rekant on the marriage of Steen and Amy
 Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, Mazel Tov to Linda Fellen and Ben Gottesman on the marriage of Evan and Gabby
 Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, Mazel Tov to Arlene and Mitchell Frumkin on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Ezra
 Marcia & Jeff Schwartz, Mazel Tov to Helene and Gary Tinkel, on 50 years of marriage
 Lisa & Jeff Tannenbaum, in memory of Brenda Sherman's mother, Selma Linefsky
 Frances Sherman, in memory of Selma Linefsky
 Frances Sherman, in memory of Harvey Sherman
 Eileen Balaban-Eisenberg and Jeff Eisenberg, in memory of Selma Linefsky

Religious School Fund

Jodi Leshner & Steven Levinstein, in loving memory of Selma Linefsky
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Trees for Israel Fund

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Shiva Fund

Cindy & David Teicher, in memory of Selma Linefsky

Passport to Israel Fund

The Blackin Family, in memory of Diane Blackin
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BIRTHDAYS!**



Daily Schedule of Prayer Services

Please Join Us

Sunday:
9:00am & 7:30pm

Monday
7:30pm

Tuesday
7:30pm

Wednesday
7:30pm

Thursday
8:00am & 7:30pm

Friday
6:30pm
(unless otherwise noted)

Saturday
9:30am

All services are also available via Stream and Zoom. If
you need the password, please contact the office.