

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:

# FEBRUARY

2/1-2/10

- 4: Religious School JWLT, 10am
- 5: CBT Board Meeting, 8pm
- 7: Rabbi's Lunch & Learn, 12pm Religious School
- 8: Trivia Night, 8pm
- 10: Shabbat Lunch & Learn USY Prom, hosted by CBT

2/11-2/17

- 11: Religious School Men's Club World Wide Wrap, 9am Teen Mitvah Corp. NSBUSY Event PJ Library
- 12: Sisterhood Board Meeting, 8pm
- 14: Rabbi Wolkoff's Lunch & Learn, 12pm Religious School
- 15: Rabbi Wolkoff Lecture in Monroe

2/18-2/24

- 18: NO Religious School
- 19: CBT Office Closed
- 21: Rabbi Wolkoff's Lunch & Learn, 12pm Religious School
- 22: CBT EC Meeting, 8pm
- 23: CBT Shabbat Dinner, 6pm

2/25-2/29

- 25: Religious School Better Together WAM Bowling Event
- 26: Ritual Committee Meeting, 8pm
- 27: Chaverim, 12-2pm
- 28: Rabbi Wolkoff's Lunch & Learn, 12pm Religious School

details of all our events/programs/meetings, can be found on our website [www.bnaitikvah.org](http://www.bnaitikvah.org)

## From Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

### Our Feet Were Dancing, But Our Hearts Were Crying



We have just celebrated the holiday of Tu b'Shvat, the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shvat. This day is known as "the new year of the trees," and marks the time when sap starts flowing in fruit-bearing trees in the Land of Israel.

Although not mentioned in the Tanach, Tu b'Shvat punches far above its weight in the popular Jewish imagination. Millions upon millions of trees have been planted on this holiday by Israeli schoolchildren, part of the JNF project that has greened Israel with a quarter billion trees. One of Jewish folklore's best known songs, "Hashkeydiyah porachat" "The almond tree is blossoming," is linked to this holiday because the almond tree is the first tree to blossom in Israel. I once had occasion to fly to Israel on Tu b'Shvat, and the entire Israeli landscape was dotted with white almond blossoms. It was a magnificent sight to see.

There is, in fact, a blessing one recites upon seeing those first blossoms: "Blessed are You, o Lord our G-d, King of the universe, Who has made nothing lacking in His world, and created in it goodly creatures and goodly trees to give humankind pleasure." In a world like ours, so often alienated from nature, a blessing like that is, well, a blessing, a gift to our jaded sensibilities.

In the middle of Kibbutz Lavi, a religious kibbutz in the Lower Galilee area, there is an almond tree. Hanging from it is a placard with the above mentioned blessing. This is a very practical solution to a very practical problem. The blessing is long-ish, and recited only once a year, so it's easy to forget the exact wording. And since this tree will definitely be the first blossoming tree on the kibbutz, someone decided to make everyone's life easy by reminding them of the text. In fact, in keeping with the principle that "one should run to do a mitzvah," as soon as the tree blossoms, the word spreads so people do come running, literally, to have the experience and fulfill their religious obligation.

In light of the recent horrible events in Israel, the full horror of which is even today not fully appreciated, cute songs about almond blossoms may seem dramatically untimely, if not inappropriate. But that is a misreading of how the Jewish spirit works. Rabbi Yehudah Gilad, who serves on Kibbutz Lavi, had this to say about his experience of Oct. 7, Simchat Torah, when informed of the massacre, "I fell silent, completely in shock despite not yet knowing the full magnitude of what had happened. I asked if the leadership of the kibbutz and the local emergency team were aware of the situation. He confirmed that they knew; we decided together to continue the dancing. Our feet were dancing but our hearts were crying. I looked around at the spirited dancers, young and old, who were rejoicing for Simchat Torah, without knowing that our country was experiencing one of its darkest hours."

"Our feet were dancing but our hearts were crying." Such is the pathos of Jewish life. We have a great deal about which to cry. But dance we must, and dance we will. And we will plant trees, and watch them blossom, and bless G-d--in spite of it all.

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

## From Cantor Bruce Rockman

### Knock, Knock Who's there?



Dear Friends,

I have been trying to write to you about something that has been bothering me for some time now. I've been associated with B'nai Tikvah for more than 25 years and I have been a member of the clergy team for 22 of those years. B'nai Tikvah and the Jewish people are always in a crisis. Now more than ever in our lives, we are experiencing an existential crisis before our eyes. I am not asking you for a donation.

We are a pluralistic Jewish community and we are all devastated by effects of the war in Israel. The loss of human life, whether by murderous terrorists or by the right to defend ourselves is tragic, but not equivalent. Our hearts bleed for every lost individual. I cannot pretend to fathom the depth of despair- I worry about and pray for every child of our members, family, friends and all of B'nai Yisrael.

Whether it is a crisis of the magnitude of this war, the need for a new ventilation system or the health and welfare of one of members, the request for a donation will not now or ever solve the issues with which we are confronted.

When tragedy strikes, like most crises, for a moment we forget about our personal problems and want to know what we can do to help Israel, the synagogue or our friends. Again donations seem to be what is being requested, and that is important, but why? And why do we care about our holy promised land, our synagogue, or one and another?

Because we have all be taught the value of Tikun Olam, that it is our responsivity to help to heal the world.

I find it much easier to write a check than to make a phone call. I know that I miss the mark often. I'm devastated about the loss of lives in Israel but I'm more accountable for the lives that I've harmed by neglecting to call a person in crisis.

Until we stop treating our responsibilities like a dreaded homework assignment, we will not be able fix the world.

Please do not forgive me for neglecting to call you; I pray that I will make amends. Please know that we all need to do much better. We are a pluralistic Jewish community and we are grappling with whatever that means. One thing that it does mean is that you have to get involved in doing acts of kindness, both in your daily lives and as a community.

We always see those requests that offer to double or triple our donations. Reaching out to a person in pain, community charitable initiatives are much greater than that. In order to be a thriving Jewish community, we need to take action and do for others. Tell me what you need. I believe that we need to explore and learn how B'nai Tikvah can make a difference and create a reservoir of good deeds.

Knock, Knock  
Who's there?  
G-d  
Please answer my prayers.

I'll see you at minyan,  
Cantor Bruce Rockman

## From President Charlie Valan

### A LITE LOOK ON THE WORLD Charlie Valan



As you're all reading this, hopefully I am recovering successfully from surgery to replace my left hip. Having been a competitive runner from the time I was 9 years old till my last real race in 2009 could have contributed to this being my second replacement (right one was replaced 7 years ago), but bottom line is my surgeon told me he's doing hip replacements on such a wide variety of people of all body types and histories, that there is no real pattern. It just happens. I have two friends that have been running for over 60 years (yes, that long) and both of them are still going strong.

I would like to thank everyone for their words of strength prior to my operation and all those with their kindness after. What I will say is bodily pain is no way to move through life and if there are solutions, research them all thoroughly and do something. Don't wait or put it off, because we are in such an incredible place with procedures now and having a pain free life should be a desire of all of us. I'd be more than happy to discuss my journey with anyone, just reach out.

But with all of that said, I went through this and realized that there were many humorous similarities between CBT and my surgery and hopefully by the time you finished reading this, it will at least bring a little smile to your face. First let's begin with the preparation. There is a well detailed manual that I had to follow specifically. Kind of like picking up the Siddur on every Shabbat service and knowing the flow will be the same. We don't part far from what we do and for surgery; they instill that you should follow along and make sure you don't miss a step, from the day before prep to hopefully all the steps they undertook during my operation.

When I was wheeled into the operating room, it was "temperature chilled", kind of like our sanctuary for services. How many times have people approached us during services and said, "its cold in here"? Well it was freezing in that operating room. I will say, we are trying to balance the temperature, but in most cases, yeah, it's chilled.

I looked around the operating room and counted over 10 people in there with me. Right away I thought, "This is a good day, we have a Minyan". So I knew right then and there that my surgery had meaningful devotion and most importantly, all the steps in fulfillment were there. I must also admit that with so many people, I figured no one would need my help so I decided to just sleep this one out, with a little help from the magic of an I.V. mixture. Wonder if it comes in an over the counter version? For the record, I never fall asleep in the cold room of our sanctuary, so this was a little different I guess (LOL).

After the surgery was over and I was fully awake, I was greeted with a meal. Not your typical Kiddush Lunch following services, but the food was more than satisfying given all the time spent going through the preparation and procedure. From there, that leads to all the rehab and physical therapy that I will now undertake and hopefully by the time we hit the month of May, I will be fully recovered and resume a life; pain free and active.

At the end of the day through all of this, my individual journey couldn't have happened without an entire village. The same way our fulfillments of our traditions come through the benefit and hard work of an entire CBT Community. Each of us don't have to be an "expert" on every aspect, but each of us can serve a role that is critical for each individual to accomplishment and achieve. And in person was sure more effective than Zooming this, that's for certain.

We have so much planned here at CBT over the next bunch of months and everyone is encouraged to sign up, participate, volunteer, but most importantly, share in what our community has to offer. As with an operating room of a Minyan, each of those individuals had their area of expertise, but together; a whole, united, and strong community accomplishing at the end a task that brings joy to the entire group, especially me.

Now more than ever, we need our community.

In closing, I'd also like to recognize and proclaim my unwavering love to Laurie who never left my side (well, she didn't come into the operating room) and even slept in my room overnight at the hospital to ensure I was well cared for during the two days I was there. I am truly blessed!!!





## Men's Club News



Craig Cohen & Brian Berness, Co-Presidents

### Men's Club Report February 2024

#### **Congratulations to Terry Katz on being our CBT Men's Club Man of the Year!**

Terry is described by his fellow Men's club members as a "true mensh". Terry played for the Men's club softball team and played an integral part in reducing the number of errors the infield committed. He has volunteered numerous times to construct our sukkah, even without the blue prints. He was instrumental in wiring the Hanukkah Menorah that stands tall and proud as a symbol of hope and light each year. Terry can often be seen playing pickleball in the CBT gym or schmoozing with other congregants at our club meetings. We are proud to call Terry Katz our Men's Club Man of the Year.

#### **Congratulations to Jordyn Weintraub on being our CBT Men's Club Youth of the Year!**

Jordyn has been involved in the youth groups at CBT and now holds the title as the USY president. She demonstrates leadership qualities while she volunteers Sunday mornings working with religious school students. Jordyn has also assisted with the annual Purim events at CBT. She is the energy that helps keep our youth groups running.

#### **Did you know?**

Each year on Super Bowl Sunday, Jews around the world take part in a Tefillin event known as the *World Wide Wrap*.



Please join us **Sunday, February 11th at 9:00am at CBT** to celebrate this global wrapping event. We will learn about the mitzvah of Tefillin during our post wrap breakfast.

Don't worry if you do not have your own Tefillin. Additional Tefillin will be available and you will be instructed on how to wrap.

Please RSVP to Craig Cohen ( [pbgrebe2001@yahoo.com](mailto:pbgrebe2001@yahoo.com) or send a text to 609-651-1265) by February 6th.

CBT Men's Club Membership is only \$36 and you can be a part of our wonderful organization and receive all of our benefits throughout the year. Join us for the World Wide Wrap and learn about what CBT Men's Club is all about.

We have an exciting list of activities for the Spring. Hope to see you at CBT!



Cheryl Crick  
President



# Board & Brush

creative studio®



## B'NAI TIKVAH SISTERHOOD - BAGELS AND BOARDS

Join Sisterhood for a fun and interactive DIY Wood Sign Workshop with bagels and schmear! When you register for the workshop, you will select your project. During the workshop, the instructor will guide us step-by-step and explain how to customize our projects. This workshop is designed for both DIY pros and novices, so don't worry if you're new to DIY.

Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty!



<p>Sisterhood Members: \$20          Sisterhood Members ONLY Use Coupon          Code: SISTERHOOD (case sensitive)          Non-Members: \$40 - \$43</p>	
<p>February 4th          at 11 am          3562 ROUTE 27          SUITE 12208824</p>	<p>Register Here:  <a href="http://bit.ly/sisterhoodbb">bit.ly/sisterhoodbb</a>          Access Code:          CBTIKVAH          (case sensitive)</p>



QUESTIONS? CONTACT, AT SISTERHOOD@BNAITIKVAH.ORG

WAM's Winter of Fun!



# WINTER OF FUN

# 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB**  
**08** **TRIVIA NIGHT**  
**8PM**

**MAR**  
**03** **BOWLING @ KNOB HILL**  
**2PM**

**MAR**  
**09** **ANNUAL GALA: HONORING**  
**MARCI & MARTY ABSCHUTZ**

**MAR**  
**23** **PURIM KARAOKE NIGHT**  
**8PM**

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



# Trivia Night - February 8



# Trivia Night

**THURSDAY  
FEB 8TH**

**SNACKS PROVIDED  
NO COST TO ATTEND**

**SEE YOU AT 8PM  
BRING YOUR SMART FRIENDS!**

**RSVP:**  
[wam@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:wam@bnaitikvah.org)



**B'nai Tikvah Bowling - March 3**



*B'nai Tikvah*  
**BOWLING**

**KNOB HILL COUNTRY LANES, 363 ROUTE 33, MANALAPAN**

**SUNDAY**  
**03 MAR**

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**02:00 PM**

**2 GAMES+**  
**SHOES**

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**\$18**

**LIMITED**  
**CAPACITY**

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RSVP ON  
 SYNAGOGUE  
 WEBSITE



*Sweetier  
than  
Wine*  
a gala event

*Honoring  
Marci and Marty Abschutz*

*Saturday, March 9, 2024  
Congregation B'nai Tikvah*





*Saturday, March 9, 2024  
7:00pm - 12:00am*

*Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
1001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ*

Evening Includes:  
Open bar with Signature Drink  
3-course plated dinner by Classical Caterers  
Dancing and Music by R2 Entertainment  
Silent Auction and Games of Chance

\$136 Per Person  
Celebration Attire

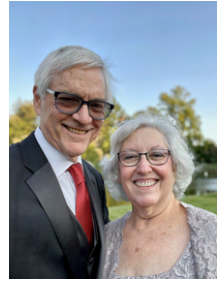
RSVP by Feb 23rd  
RSVP Card Enclosed

Digital Tribute Book Ads Due Feb 17th

## About our Honorees

### Let's learn more about the 2024 Gala Honorees Marty and Marci Abschutz!!

The theme of this year's gala is "Sweeter than Wine". The committee landed on this theme quickly knowing that Marty and Marci are very enthusiastic about wine. We asked how this came about and learned a lot.



*Marci and I became interested in wine as far back as our honeymoon in 1975 in Honolulu, Hawaii. We were introduced to a Riesling from Germany at the Third-Floor restaurant in the Hawaiian Regent Hotel. Other notable patrons that night included basketball legend, Wilt Chamberlain; he did not have the same wine that we did.*

*Over the years we had some favorites and some not-so-favorites. Our appreciation for wine began to blossom after we met our good friends, Rori and Steve Reiss, in 1987. They freely shared many tasty and different wines from various parts of the world. We were still finding our wine palate.*

*As we became more interested in California wines, we decided to take a trip to the Napa and Sonoma regions. During that trip, we were introduced to several wineries that impressed us. Among these were Elyse and Papapietro-Perry wineries.*

*The strange thing that we noticed at Elyse was that (not only did they spell it the same way as we spelled our daughter's name) they used the same exact font that we used on Elyse's Bat Mitzvah invitation. (It's really a small world.) When we stopped in for a tasting, we learned that our Elyse was older than their Elyse.*

*We found Papapietro-Perry ("P-P") while being driven around by a driver, we hired to show us some wineries. (This is the preferred way to enjoy any wine tasting adventure, since you have the designated driver paid for.) P-P specializes in the Pinot Noir grape. We learned that we love Pinot Noir wines. We joined their wine club, which meant that we would accept three deliveries of wine throughout the year, at a discounted price. We remain club members all these years later. In fact, their wines are so good that The Reiss's and CBT's own Kim and Chris Riemann partner with us on an expanded number of bottles three times a year.*

*In more recent years, we have discovered the Finger Lakes (NY) wine region. Once again, we hired a driver to drive us on a tasting adventure. Among the wineries we visited was Sheldrake Point Winery, on the west shore of Cayuga Lake. We like several of their wines. In conversation with their wine club manager, Marty discovered the AIDS Ride for Life that supports the Southern Tier AIDS Program. He even learned that Sheldrake had a cycling team that participates; he was asked to join and has ridden with them for several years. In fact, he has brought along several of his biking buddies to the ride, including CBT's own Bobbi Binder, Dave Shultz and Kim and Chris Riemann.*

*Most recently, we have added Forge Cellars to our wine list. They have great dry Rieslings. They are a Finger Lakes Winery, too, located on the east shore of Cayuga Lake. We have fun bringing friends to Forge for a tasting around the same time as the AIDS ride. The interesting thing for us is that Marci is not a huge fan of dry Rieslings, yet she loves Forge's wines.*

*When you see us feel free to ask us about our wines. Of course, my motto is that there are only two kinds of wine: wines you like and wines you don't.*



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## Shabbat Dinner - February 23



# Shabbat Dinner Series

## Tropical Luau Shabbat

*Get your Hawaiian shirt and lei ready for a tropical Shabbat dinner extravaganza!*



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

**Friday, Feb. 23, 2024**  
**at 6:00 pm**

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

[BNAITIKVAH.ORG/SHABBATDINNER](http://BNAITIKVAH.ORG/SHABBATDINNER)

**Save the Date!**  
**Mar. 23, 2024**  
**Chametzfest**

Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
1001 Finnigans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
Lesley | lesley@bnaitikvah.org | 732-297-0696  
[www.bnaitikvah.org](http://www.bnaitikvah.org)



## Shabbat Dinner Sponsors



*A very special  
THANK YOU  
to our  
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**

Jay Scheuer

## New Hakol Feature!

# NEW FEATURE IN HAKOL!

## CBT Funds

Each month, we will feature a different CBT Fund.

We'll tell you about the fund and where your generous donations go to help CBT and our community.

This month, we are featuring the *Jodi Wexler-Marcou Social Action Fund*.

By featuring our various funds, we hope to give you some insight into the tremendous difference your donations make to our CBT community, and beyond.



## New Hakol Feature!

### **JODI WEXLER-MARCOU SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

The Jodi Wexler-Marcou Social Action Committee focuses its vision, first and foremost, on the care of our own CBT members.

Some of the ways Social Action helps CBT members:

- Provides Rosh Hashana meals for those who may not otherwise have a holiday meal.
- Provides gift cards during the Thanksgiving/Chanukah season, as well as other times during the year, for members who need some extra support.
- Arranges for rides to CBT, for services and programs, to those who don't drive.
- Provides a program for our seniors, which enables them to socialize and enjoy entertainment; a much needed program for many, who otherwise may not have any interaction with other people.

The Social Action Committee also organizes community outreach drives, to help various non-profit organizations in need.

Some of the organizations the Social Action Committee has helped:

InterFaith Rise  
Central NJ Diaper Bank  
Women Aware  
N/S Brunswick Food Pantries  
Homefront NJ  
Elijah's Promise  
ARC Middlesex County  
Jewish Family Services

By the way, the fabulous program, Needy Family Fund (which you will read about in the following pages), run by Janice Baer, also falls under Social Action.

The Jodi Wexler-Marcou Social Action Committee, spearheaded by Laura Waksman, along with wonderful volunteers; Renee Levin, Steve and Shelly Talmud, Carol Eisenberg, Jay Scheuer, Andrea Katz, and Shelly Wistreich, works hard to put your generous donations to the best possible use. They are always looking for more volunteers, and of course, more of your generous donations!

## Sisterhood Mishloach Manot Fundraiser



Purim 2024 is coming soon - March 23th. Sisterhood is once again preparing baskets for CBT congregants.

One basket delivered to every household in the central New Jersey area.

A special card will be sent to any members who are not in the local area (please supply us with your out-of-town address below to guarantee a card,)

If you do not wish to receive a basket, let us know in advance, and we will make a donation on your behalf to a local food bank.

Included with each Mishloach Manot bag will be a card indicating who our Golden Groggers, Silver Groggers and Contributors are as well as hamantaschen and other treats\*

We gratefully accept contributions to help with this project. The three levels of contributions are:

- Golden Grogger - Minimum Donation \$118.00
- Silver Grogger - Minimum Donation \$65.00
- Contributors - Minimum Donation \$5.00

To be included on the card, payment must be received by Thursday, March 7, 2024.

Please return the form below to Marci Abschutz, 18 Pullman Loop, Dayton, NJ 08810

Or visit [bnaitikvah.org/purim-baskets](http://bnaitikvah.org/purim-baskets) to make a payment online. If you are mailing this form or paying by check, you must call or email Marci Abschutz at 732-735-1946 or [marci.abschutz@gmail.com](mailto:marci.abschutz@gmail.com) to confirm so we can track the orders and payments.

\*Although we would like to accommodate everyone, we CANNOT offer sugar-free or nut-free baskets.

Please Print:

Name (as it will appear on the card): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please check here if you choose to not receive a Purim bag. A donation will be made to a local food bank:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Level: Golden Grogger: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Silver Grogger: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Sisterhood Winter Sock Drive

B'nai Tikvah  
Sisterhood

# WINTER SOCK DRIVE

SUPPORT OUR WINTER SOCK DRIVE  
AND GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH BY  
DONATING NEW PAIRS OF SOCKS OR  
NEW UNDERGARMENTS



DONATE BY:  
FEBRUARY 25TH



DROP OFF LOCATION :  
DROP BOX INSIDE THE TEMPLE



## Needy Family Fund - Results and Thank You

### RESULTS OF 2023 NEEDY FAMILY PROGRAM

We recently completed our 22<sup>nd</sup> year running the "Needy Family Program". We decided to continue to run a hybrid program- those who felt comfortable shopping shopped and those who didn't made financial donations used to purchase gift cards and needed items. This year was a different one as our hearts, prayers and support were directed to Israel. We were not sure what the 2023 Needy Family Program would look like. Once again, this congregation came through for the needy in our area. We were able to sponsor 19 families! We collected \$9013.75!! Sixteen families were each given \$500 gift cards to Walmart, one family was given funds toward purchasing bunk beds and 2 families (16 people) were given clothing for each person, towels, sheets, blankets, silverware, dishes, etc.

#### A little about the families we sponsored....

One family we sponsored was a mother with three children who is struggling financially as her husband died two months ago. Another mother, sole provider for her son, had to temporarily take off work as her young son is recuperating from brain surgery. Several of the families are living in a homeless shelter or a domestic violence shelter. One family was displaced due to a house fire as well as having a terminally ill two year old who passed away three weeks ago.

Please read Doris Cruz's thank you letter. She is the social worker who has been working with us since the inception of this program. It truly expresses the impact we make.

We are trying something new this year. You may now donate to the Needy Family Program throughout the year. You can either send a check to the Jodi Marcou Social Action Fund and place "Needy Family" in the memo or you can go directly to the link

<https://bnaitikvah.org/donations/needyfamily/>

I can't thank you all enough for participating in this program as it truly makes a difference in so many lives.

Wishing you and your families a year full of health, happiness and peace in Israel.

Janice Baer  
Needy Family Program



## Needy Family Fund - Thank You



Pride • Empower • Inspire

**NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
A.C. REDSHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
216 Livingston Ave.**

**New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901**

**Phone: (732)-745-5300, Ext. 7500 Fax: (732)-729-9310**

December 22, 2023

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

Dear Congregants of B'nai Tikvah,

Thank you so much on behalf of the 19 families of Redshaw School that you sponsored for the Holiday Gift Program. The Congregants of B'nai Tikvah definitely put into practice the Hebrew phrase Tikkun Olam which means repairing the world. The gifts and the gift cards you provided helped others in a profound and meaningful way. It instilled hope and a belief in the kindness of humanity. It brought a sense of dignity where there was embarrassment and shame of their level of poverty.

There is a family that came to the U.S. on asylum and had suffered tremendously in their country. They came with great uncertainty and fear of the unknown. They were living in a bare apartment with no furniture and no beds. Some congregants donated dressers, a table and chairs and funds were used to purchase a bunk bed so they all could have a place to sleep. Initially this family would not allow me into their humble apartment due to shame of not having a place for me to sit and having their clothes in bags on the floor. Once the donations arrived, everything changed for this family. They went from living like refugees to living like regular people with furniture and with their basic needs taken care of. It greatly elevated their mood and their spirit. They proudly invited me to their home to show me everything neatly organized. The children are learning English and are thriving in school. Everyone is resting peacefully and comfortably at night thanks to many of you who cared enough to contribute and to make a difference in the lives of others.

Many of the mothers who received the gift cards burst into tears of joy, flabbergasted by the generosity of strangers. I made sure to explain the gifts and gift cards were donated from your congregation. They said they will pray for you and your families and are also praying for those suffering in Israel. Thank you for helping to provide food, hygiene products, clothes and other household items to the families in need. Your kindness has a lasting impact on these families. I ran into a family that you had sponsored many years ago. The mother spoke to me about the impact of this program. She said that it inspired them to want to do better for themselves. Their daughter is studying nursing and will be graduating in May 2024. The daughter went into nursing due to a strong desire to help others. This family has gone on to pay it forward and have helped others in need the way you have helped them.

Many blessings to all of you! We will continue to pray for you and for those in Israel.

With much gratitude in my heart,  
Doris Cruz Redshaw  
School Social Worker

## 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](mailto:Lesley@BnaiTikvah.org)



## Member News

*The congregation wishes Mazel Tov to:*

*Shelly and Steve Talmud, on the birth of their granddaughter, Jordyn Sophia Talmud*

*The congregation extends condolences to:*

*Mark and Judy Roller, on the passing of Mark's sister and our long time member, Jeryl Roller*

*Hadas Elami and Colleen Snow, on the passing of Hadas' father, Mara Elami*

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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.

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!



## 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.





# 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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## 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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 Michael Greenfield, in memory of Bernice Greenfield  
 Cheryl Fitzer-Attas & Moshe Attas, in appreciation of Rabbi Wolkoff  
 Ruth & Allen Schechter, in memory of Rose Schechter  
 Gerri Mandell, in memory of Rose Mandell  
 Phyllis B. Rich, in memory of her beloved father, Charles Bernstein

### Cantor's Special Fund

Cheryl Fitzer-Attas & Moshe Attas, in appreciation of Cantor Rockman  
 Irwin Kalet, in memory of Henry Kalet  
 Irwin Kalet, in memory of Charles Rothermich  
 Bill & Ellie Greenberg, in memory of Jacob D. Greenberg  
 Carol Eisenberg, in memory of Matilda Ratzman  
 Sandy, Yitzhak, and Dina Sharon, in memory Yitzhak's mother, Dina Schwadron  
 Irit Harchol, in memory of her mother, Fruma Weiner

### Yahrzeit and Tzedakah Fund

Maxine, Irwin, Allie & Dani Nudelman, in memory of Maxine's brother, David August  
 Betty & Marvin Stark, in memory of Louis Golden  
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 Ellen, Jerry & Alissa Platz, in memory of Leo Platz  
 Vicki & Burt Bauman, in memory of Yetta Bauman  
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 Wendy & Ira Heisler, in memory of Mary Heisler  
 Wade Lebowitz, in memory of Shirley Kaner  
 Maxine, Irwin, Allie & Dani Nudelman, in memory of Anita Abrams  
 Maxine, Irwin, Allie & Dani Nudelman, in memory of Sol Nudelman  
 Leslie & Steven Dickert, in memory of Irving R. Margulies  
 Debbi & Scott Rekant, in memory of Herman Slotoff  
 Randall Mars, in memory of Adrienne Mars  
 Ann Gold, in memory of her beloved husband, Herb Gold  
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in memory of Allen Gerbman  
 Michele & Dave Greenfield, in memory of Hyman Arougheti  
 Peter Kuker, in memory of Audrey Kuker  
 Debbi & Scott Rekant, in memory of Sam Slotoff  
 Howard Kalish, in loving memory of his wife Carole  
 Susan Zieselman & Frank Marchese, in memory of Susan's sister, Carole Kalish  
 The Kessler Family, in memory of Harriet Schanen  
 The Kessler Family, in memory of Nathan Schanen

### Jodi Wexler Marcou Social Action Fund

Arlene & Marc Lassin, in memory of Selma Linefsky  
 Renee & Steve Levin, in memory of Dick Schaap

Rose & Jeff Berger, in memory of Sam Laist  
 Cindy & Neal Gittleman, in memory of Sidney Solomon  
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 Tammy & Keith Zimmerman, in memory of Hadas Elami's father, Mara Elami

### Ruth-Ann Breitler Bikur Cholim

Wade Lebowitz, in memory of Irene Lebowitz  
 Shirley & Martin Engel, in memory of Lee Alexander Strebel  
 The Sharon Family, in memory of Dina Schwadron

### Shabbat Luncheon Fund

Alan & Gaye Feinberg, in memory of Joseph Roth  
 William Reinholtz & Gail Levine-Reinholtz, in memory of Bennett Reinholtz  
 Herbert Mars, in memory of Adrienne Mars  
 Ben Gottesman & Linda Fellen, in honor of the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ben's Bar Mitzvah  
 Lonnie Hordon, in memory of Robert and Sheila Hordon  
 Nancy & Elliott Danto, in memory of Ennes Danto  
 Adrienne & Andrew Ross, in memory of Molly Kaufman  
 Irina Irgon, in memory of Adam Irgon  
 Cheryl & Myron Asnis, in memory of Cheryl's mother, Pearl Kaplan  
 Cheryl & Myron Asnis, in memory of Mark Roller's sister, Jeryl Roller  
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 Nancy & Elliott Danto, in memory of Carole Kalish

### Shabbat Together Fund

The Uniman Family, in memory of Shirley Uniman  
 Lonnie Hordon, in memory of Robert and Sheila Hordon  
 Gail & William Reinholtz, in memory of Robert Levine

### General Fund

Natasha Rosenbaum, in honor of the wedding of Evan and Gabby Gottesman  
 Natasha Rosenbaum, in memory of her sister, Evelyn Weiner  
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in memory of Mark Roller's sister, Jeryl Roller  
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in memory of Ruth Schechter's brother, Stephen Wohl  
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in memory of Brenda Sherman's mother, Selma Linefsky

### L'Dor V'Dor

Marci Oslick & Phil Welsher, in memory of Mark Roller's sister, Jeryl Roller



## Donations Continued & Donation Form

### MENS Club

Linda Fellen & Ben Gottesman, in honor of Terry Katz being named Men's Club Man of the Year

### Arnie Miller Youth Activity Fund

Phyllis Horlick, in memory of Harry Horlick

### Shomrei Tikvah Fund

Linda Fellen & Ben Gottesman, in memory of Selma Linefsky  
Bobbi & Marc Binder, in memory of Barney Cohn  
Les & Dave Offenber, on the loss of Ruth Schechter's brother,  
Stephen Wohl

Marci & Marty Abschutz, in memory of Jerry Ray Abschutz  
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Brenda & Mark Sherman, in memory of Hadas Elami's father,  
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### Mark Kasdin Memorial Fund

Maxine Kasdin, in memory of Jack Steck  
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### Safety and Security Fund

Janet Weiss, in memory of Michael E. Weiss  
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Gail & William Reinholtz, in memory of Robert Levine  
Joyce & Gerald Fishelberg, in memory of Charles Fishelberg

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# 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.