

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:

MAY

5/1-5/3

- 1: Rabbi Wolkoff's Lunch & Learn, 12pm
- Religious School, 4:30pm
- 2: How a Torah Changed My Life - 8:30pm (virtual)
- 3: Shabbat Dinner:
 - 6pm-Tot Shabbat, 6:30pm-Dinner
 - 7:30pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Services

5/4-5/10

- 4: Adelman B'nai Mitzvah
- 5: Religious School Teen Mitzvah Corp.
- 6: Yom Hashoah:
 - Reading of the Names - All Day
 - Service and Lecture - 7:30pm
- 7: CBT Board Meeting, 8pm
- 8: Rabbi Wolkoff's Lunch & Learn, 12pm
- Religious School, 4:30pm

5/11-5/17

- 11: Shabbat Lunch & Learn
- 12: Religious School
- 13: Yom Hazikaron - Falafel Ball
- 14: Yom Ha'atzmaut
- 15: Rabbi Wolkoff's Lunch & Learn, 12pm
- Religious School, 4:30pm

5/18-5/24

- 19: Religious School - Last Day
- 20: Sisterhood Board Meeting, 8pm
- 22: Rabbi Wolkoff's Lunch & Learn, 12pm
- 23: CBT EC Meeting, 8pm

5/25-5/31

- 26: Lag B'Omer
- 27: Memorial Day - CBT Office Closed
- 28: Chaverim, 12-2pm
- 29: Rabbi Wolkoff's Lunch & Learn, 12pm

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

From Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

“In every generation there are those who rise up to destroy us, but the Holy One, Blessed be He, saves us from their hand.”

“In every generation there are those who rise up to destroy us, but the Holy One, Blessed be He, saves us from their hand.”

For the longest time, I have been troubled by those words from the Haggadah. I thought they fostered a distorted view of Jewish life. To be sure, we have gone through our share of persecutions. But is it really true that in every generation there have been those who tried to destroy us? As a matter of historical fact, there have been centuries when the Jewish people were not threatened with destruction. So I felt that to imply otherwise was to introduce an unnecessary element of paranoia into Jewish life—which could be challenging enough in its own right without negative fantasies.

Oct. 7 has made me change my mind. The havoc wrought by Hamas—the murder, rape, torture, kidnapping—was an echo of all that had come before: the pogroms, the massacres, the Holocaust. But beyond that, and in a way even more frightening, and certainly more disappointing, has been the abandonment of the Jewish people by those we had considered to be friends and allies. From the Bima, I have spoken in defense of the Muslim community; the BLM movement; the LGBTQ+ community; the environmental movement; the feminist movement; the undocumented; interfaith activity; and on and on. Not, I hasten to mention, because I wished to win a progressive popularity contest, but because my sense of civic responsibility, and my Jewish identity, called me to defend the underdog, the weak and persecuted.

And where were they when Jewish women were carried off terrified and screaming to an unspeakable fate on Oct. 7? Absolutely nowhere. Their silence has been thunderous. No wonder Israeli women who felt betrayed by their feminist “allies” coined the cynical expression “#MeToo_Unless_UR_A_Jew.”

Our community has been traumatized. And the trauma, for American Jews, although not as intense as for Israelis, has a unique character. For a very long time, we have relied on American civic society—organizations like the



ACLU and the International Council of Christians and Jews, institutions of higher learning, and all three branches of government, to offer us protection. And now? When the (past) President of Harvard declares that a threat of genocide against Jews only runs afoul of Harvard rules “depending on the context,” you know you’re in trouble (or should know—hear the alarms going off!).

As much as I hate to say it, American Jewry has returned to the precarious state of all other Diaspora communities. Simply put, who knows what the future will bring?

And thus we find ourselves caught in the archetypal drama of the Jewish people, characterized by the upcoming holy days: Yom Hashoah, a commemoration of the victims of the holocaust; and Yom Haatzmaut, the celebration of Israel’s independence. And, right before that joyous day, Yom Hazikaron, Israel’s Memorial Day, when we remember those who gave their lives that the Jewish people should live.

Between destruction and redemption—that is where we find ourselves “In every generation...”

May the sweetness of Passover bring light to all of us.

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

PS: Remember our Holocaust reading of the names of victims, Yom Hashoah service, and my lecture on Hamas: the persistence of Nazi ideology in the Middle East on May 6; and our annual falafel ball Israel celebration on May 13th.

From Cantor Bruce Rockman

Let's Sing-The Falafel Ball is Back!

We've made it to May and the Jewish month of Iyar, the month that follows Passover and our celebration of our redemption from slavery. May is our modern month of vast Jewish angst and mood swings, commemorating the Holocaust, Israel's Memorial Day and Yom Haatzmaut, the independence of modern Israel, a day of unbridled celebration. This year, as the legitimacy of our Jewish homeland and Judaism are under attack by bombs, guns and hatred, it is our responsibility to engage and show our love for each other. This is a time for us, and all who are part of our Jewish families, to honor and celebrate Israel and the values that we hold so dearly.

It is so hard to understand hatred. It is impossible for me to conceive of the inhumanity that exists all around us. It seems that there is simply a terrible human flaw, insecurity that masquerades as one thing and manifests in our worst conduct.

We can speak out or we can sit on the side and pray for the best. We can join the fray or continue with our daily routine. What can we do?

For now, we donate our time and money, living meaningful lives based on our Jewish values. I believe that the best action I can take to help the world, in addition to these actions, is to sing. I need to sing prayers and songs that lift my soul and help others feel their emotions through the music of our people. The Jewish songs and the way that we present them reminds us of all of our history, sad and joyful, and empowers our spirit to retain and share our passion with our children.

And that is where we are-the children. I love a lot of stuff, but honestly the love of a parent for a child inspires the best in us. So, when we teach our children that something such as Israel or Judaism are what we value, it is our responsibility to engage intellectually, and emotionally-its time that we sing



out with those that we love and express who we are and what we need.

On Monday, May 13, the Falafel Ball will return at 6:30pm. We are going to gather in celebration and remember the bravery of our brothers and sisters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can offer the world our love and passion for each other, while we praise G-d for the gift of life and our Jewish homeland.

The Sons of Tikvah are ramping up. If you are interested in playing with the band, please contact me. There will be a place for you in our band of melody makers.

I am so thankful that we will have an opportunity to greet old friends and meet a few new ones as we are reminded how much we care for each other.

My head is not in the sand. We need to rebuild our confidence and pursue justice as we worship G-d in gladness, with joyous songs!

Remember to be kind,
Cantor Bruce Rockman

From President Charlie Valan

Is Kindness A Thing Anymore?

Charlie Valan



The timing of this writing happens to be right after the eclipse across the United States and those who know me personally know I am very much a social media person. What immediately took me back was reading comments on social media were those individuals that I call “friends” who used this moment to post, “Idiots”, “Marked Safe from Eclipse”, and things worse than that. I remember a time when people were doing something (anything) and the response used to be, “That’s not for me” if they were not interested. Now we are at a point in time where the reactions are just outright cruel, disrespectful, and insulting.

Let’s spin this to more about us as Jews at this moment and the fact that “ceasefire” can be the call instead of “release the hostages”. Anyone who thinks for one moment that Israel looked for this conflict or wanted a war is just looking for an excuse to target their inter anti-Semitism. One thing that continues to take all of us back is the narrative that one creates when best suited for their justification. Yet, that narrative and directive can drastically be altered once some of these folks move from the category of “hateful bystander” to “directly impacted”.

Personally, I try to not go beyond the box of my own personal thoughts from my understanding. I know a lot of people like to repost/retweet other’s opinions because they might match the narrative. But I’ve always believed the best thinking is what comes from an individual’s heart. In a way, we all do this by our very presence here at CBT. We’re not one size fits all and each of us continues to be our own person/family within a larger community. Life is pieces parts/parts pieces in many ways and while readings may indicate and say something specific, I think we’d all agree that we adapt and embrace what moves us. But from that also, we always should respect that not everyone sees it the same.

I can remember as far back as a kid, “If you have nothing nice to say, don’t say anything at all”. Well, that has obviously died out the same way the telegraph, Beta Max, and VHS did. It’s even easier now because people hide behind social media and quite frankly, none of us truly

might even know who or what is posting anything anymore; just the identity of what someone is claiming they are without consequence. You can read things that others have in history openly said, sometimes with great repercussions that now are possibly just deleted as the unknown. But their words are filled many times with such lack of kindness. And in the worst case, might influence someone to take an action with disastrous results.

At CBT, we have always said our community should be a beacon of caring. We have a Bikur Cholim and Social Action committee that focus on so much more than just goods. It services to not only our members, but even goes beyond that because their efforts, love, and dedication goes to helping and volunteering even outside the walls of CBT. If you have a moment or are willing to help with these two incredible arms of CBT, please reach out to Jill Stone (Bikur Cholim) or Laura Waksman (Social Action) because they could use additional arms.

I would also like to ask everyone to take a moment and think really hard about the current situation regarding Israel. Here at CBT, thanks to an incredible group, B’nai Tikvah was just responsible for putting together over 300 Passover Seder meals in Israel thanks to our membership families and those that reached out to other’s to get them to support this effort. What Hamas did on October 7th will never go away. But CBT’s kindness made Passover a little better for those that needed to hear the words better, not worse.

I’d like to close with one final thought. When you’re approached in regards to helping, is your reaction, “That’s not for me” or “Not something I normally do”? It’s very understandable that all of us have extremely overwhelming lives and every moment is something to be cherished. But sometimes, if all of us could say, “I’ll do that because I know it would help someone else”..... Well, that’s when we say Kindness is indeed still a thing. Remember, we all ask for help. So asking plus giving equals sharing.



Craig Cohen & Brian Berness, Co-Presidents



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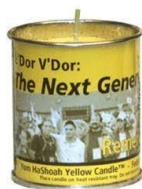
A recap of recent events:

On April 7th, a number of Men's Club members and their families explored the trails at Thompson Park in Monroe. Recent rains caused a bit of trouble, but fun was still had by all. Wildlife observations included: Turkey Vultures, Canada Goose, Song Sparrow, Blue Jay and Eastern Bluebird.

Upcoming Events:

Yom Hashoah—May 6

Service and Program beginning at 7:30pm



Yom Hashoah Yellow Candles will be mailed to your home prior to May 5, Please remember to light your candle on the evening of May 5, to remember the lives lost in the Shoah.



May 23 at 7pm (Super Charged on Route 1 in Edison), CBT Mens' Club along with the other Men's Clubs in the region, will have a Go Kart Racing Event.

(Must be a CBT Mens Club Member to Attend)

(\$40 includes 2 races, pizza and a soft drink.) -- use this link to sign-up:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=5RRTV8BKEPQEC



What To Do With Your Funny Paper Glasses

For those of you who were able to watch the eclipse, it was magical. We donned our paper glasses, gazed up in the sky and marveled at nature's beauty. We took pictures, smiled, commented that it really didn't get too dark and complained that the clouds were obstructing our view. We watched the news and saw pictures of people around the United States viewing the total eclipse.

Now, the burning question is, "what do we do with those funny paper glasses?" Thankfully CBT Sisterhood has the answer. Eclipse Glasses USA will be collecting these glasses to ship to Latin America to share with children in remote areas to safely view future eclipse events.

If you have glasses that are in good condition, not torn or scratched, please bring them to the CBT office and Sisterhood will ship them to Eclipse Glasses USA, on your behalf.

SAVE THE DATE—FAMILY FUN DAY 2024!



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at The Willows Swim Club

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Shabbat Dinner—May 3



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6pm Family Shabbat Service

6:30pm Dinner

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services



Friday, May 3, 2024

6:30 pm

Members: \$20/Adult

Non-Members: \$25/Adult

Children: \$10 (3-13) | Free Under 3

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Shabbat Shalom

Jay Scheuer

Dot & Larry Cohen

Social Action—May 2024

Ze! Gezunt!

I spent a few hours on Friday April 10th delivering Passover packages for Jewish Family Services to seniors in our area. Truth be told, I had not originally volunteered. I checked in at one point to see if they had enough volunteers and the reply was yes. The next day I was told that a volunteer could not make it, so I stepped in.

I was assigned 16 homes to go to; all the people were from the former U.S.S.R., most of whom were women. It was raining, at times in buckets. The greetings I received at almost every door were like nothing I've experienced with any volunteer work. Thank you! , Come in !, Ze! Gezunt! (Be healthy) ,Ohhh Matzah!,. One woman said one full sentence in Yiddish and explained: "That was Yiddish for" . I couldn't understand her, but I think the last word was Jerusalem, so I'm guessing she said, "Next year in Jerusalem". Another woman hugged me. I found their gratitude overwhelming.

As I walked or drove from door-to-door, freedom was front of my mind. I thought of my and Howard's long deceased grandparents, the ongoing Russia Ukraine war, and how grateful I was for this opportunity.



More gratitude: Because of the generosity of those who gave to the Jodi Wexler Marcou Social Action Fund, we were able to help our members in need this past month. Thank you to Carol Eisenberg for volunteering to deliver Passover packages for JFS. Todah Rabah to those who gave Tzedakah at our Purim Megillah reading. We donated \$105 to JFS Holocaust Survivor Programming. Thanks to Shelly Wistreich, Shelly Talmud, Carol Eisenberg, Beth Poplin, Allen Pinsky and Steve Simon for volunteering in April.

Upcoming: Chaverim- May 28th- Dan Rozett from Federation will be speaking about Israel. The topic is TBD.

B'Yachad... together we can make a difference,
Laura Waksman

Diana Schimmel Avena, Esq. Martine, Katz Scanlon & Schimmel

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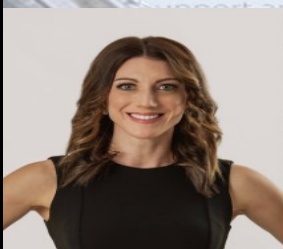
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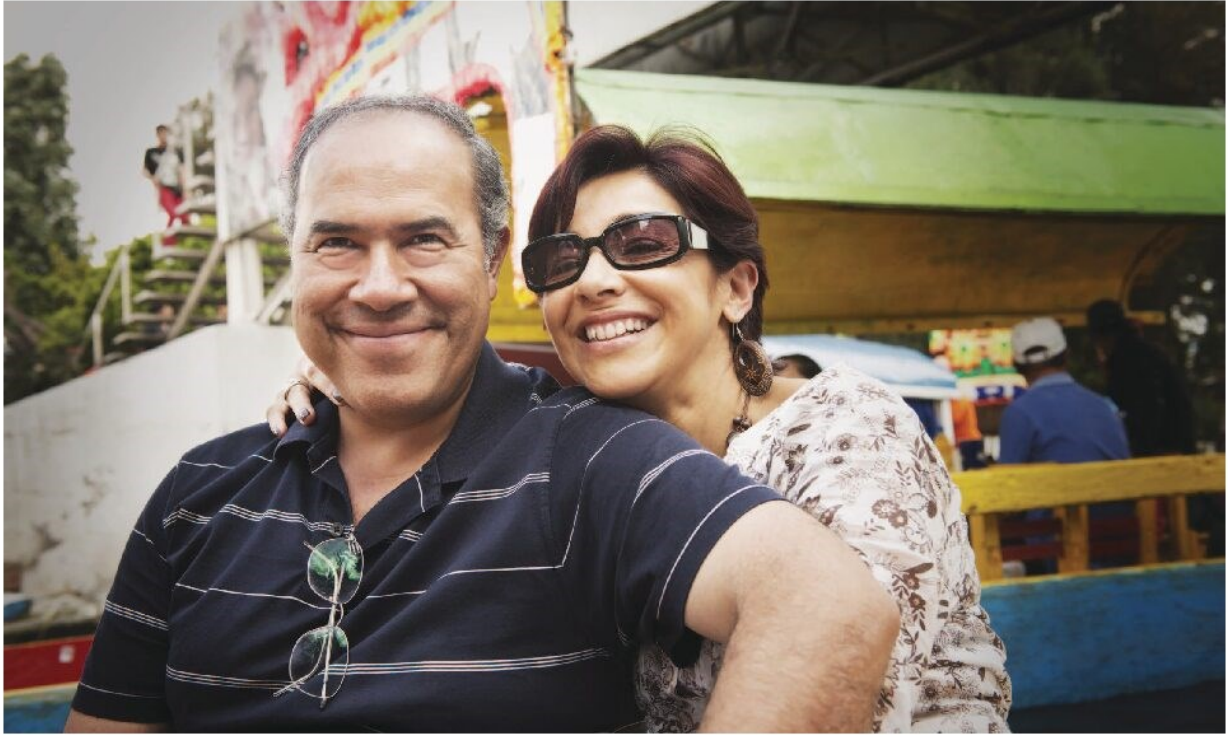


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PICKLEBALL at CBT

**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.

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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

Alexander

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7:00 pm • Pre-Reception*

7:30 pm • Program

8:30 pm • Dessert Reception

Middlesex County, NJ • Address Provided Upon Registration

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Alon Ben-Gurion

Grandson of David Ben-Gurion

Alon will blend personal recollections with historical accounts, unveiling his grandfather David Ben-Gurion's pivotal role in Israel's growth, and explore the deep implications of October 7, offering valuable insights for our community.

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JNF—A Night of Unity hosted by Congregation B'nai Tikvah



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Alon Ben-Gurion

Grandson of David Ben-Gurion

Alon will blend personal recollections with historical accounts, unveiling his grandfather David Ben-Gurion's pivotal role in Israel's growth, and explore the deep implications of October 7, offering valuable insights for our community.



Dahlia Wolkoff

Alumna, Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI)

An ardent Zionist and dedicated student at Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School, Dahlia will share her story of being on campus at Alexander Muss High School in Israel during the October 7 attacks, shedding light on the impact of today's events on the next generation of Jewish leaders.



Rabbi Robert Wolkoff

Rabbi, Congregation B'nai Tikvah

As a dynamic spiritual leader and devoted father of three, including Dahlia, Rabbi Wolkoff will inspire you with his unwavering dedication to the land and people of Israel, leaving you uplifted with a profound sense of hope, connection, and shared purpose.

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Jessica & Liz Marcus, in memory of Charles Dobbins

Passport to Israel Fund

Ruth Anne Koenick & Paul Herman, in honor of the
 marriage of Cheryl & Moshe Attas's daughter and her new
 husband Omer Assraf

Allen Karp Fund for Music

Ilene Karp, Joshua Karp & Family, Stacie Karp Weisbrot,
 in memory of beloved husband and father, Allen Karp
 Ilene Karp and Family, in memory of beloved mother,
 grandmother and great-grandmother, Lucille Sondike

Yahrzeit and Tzedakah Fund

Joyce & Carl Gerber, in memory of Fay Galnick
 Allen & Ruth Schechter, in memory of William Schechter
 Janice & Barry Kipnis, in memory of Morris Kipnis
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in memory of Rachel Gerbman
 Maxine, Irwin, Allie & Dani Nudelman, in memory of Helen
 August
 The Kessler Family, in memory of our beloved father,
 Julius Kessler
 Harriet Cohen, in memory of her sister, Esther Savitt
 Harriet Cohen, in memory of her mother, Isabella Neustein

Arnie Miller Youth Activity Fund

Phyllis Horlick & Family, in memory of Leon Horlick
 Marina & Peter Finkelberg, in loving memory of Polina
 Khaykin
 Blackin Family, in memory of Barbara Gray

Shabbat Luncheon Fund

Bruce & Barbra London, in memory of Pearl London
 Blackin Family, in memory of Lenore Klein
 Natasha Rosenbaum, in memory of Erwin Lewis
 Adrienne & Andy Ross, Mazel Tov to Amy & Cliff Smith on
 the birth of their grandson, Aiden Daniel Smith
 Phyllis Saltzman, in honor of Stacey Rockman for the
 beautiful women's Seder she created and shared
 Phyllis, Allen & Gary Pinsky, Mazel Tov to William Reinholtz
 in honor of his retirement
 Adrienne & Andy Ross, Mazel Tov to Bonnie & Marc
 Eisenberg on the birth of their grandson, Jesse Noah
 Campione
 Adrienne & Andy Ross, in memory of Irina Irgon's
 mother-in-law, Thelma Irgon

Donations Continued & Donation Form

Mark Kasdin Memorial Fund

Maxine Kasdin, in memory of Ruth Kasdin
Steve Koffler and Jordana, Jeff & Garrett Couture,
in memory of Bette Kindman-Koffler

Jodi Wexler Marcou Social Action Fund

Janice & Art Baer, in memory of Roz Pesin
Amy & Cliff Smith, in honor of the birth of their grandson,
Aiden Daniel
Joyce & Gerald Fishelberg, in memory of Gerald's mother,
Grandma Lil Fishelberg
Shelly & Steven Talmud, in memory of Rodney Shapiro
Lisa & Jeff Tannenbaum, Mazel Tov to Amy & Cliff Smith,
on the birth of their grandson, Aiden Daniel
Linda Kalb, in honor of Laura Waksman
Andrea, Steven, Matthew & Melissa Katz, in memory of
Edith Katz

Ruth-Ann Breitler Bikur Cholim Fund

Linda & Alan Brown, in memory of William LaVine
Joyce & Gerald Fishelberg, in memory of Joyce's mother,
Ruth Gertov
Sheila Farber, in honor of Sam Rosenzweig's 92nd birthday

Interested in submitting an article to our monthly Hakol?

Our monthly newsletter provides information about Conservative Judaism; religious practices & holidays; reports on activities and upcoming events; articles by the Rabbi, Cantor, President, and volunteer congregants; news of interest to the congregation; and advertisements from local businesses.

If you are interested in submitting an article, please email it to Hakol@bnaitikvah.org by the 15th of the month, for the next month's issue. Please submit a Word document, in case formatting and size need to be changed.

CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to make a contribution to B'nai Tikvah, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902



In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

On the occasion of: _____

This donation is being made by:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

*Multiple donations can be combined into one check, EXCEPT for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, and Cantor's Special Fund, both of which require separate checks.

Amount of your donation:

\$18 \$36 \$54 \$72 \$118 other

Please Allocate Donations to:

- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund *
- Cantor's Special Fund*
- Allen Karp Fund for Music
- Arnie Miller Youth Activity Fund
- Ruth-Ann Breitler Bikur Cholim Fund
- Jodi Wexler Marcou Social Action Fund
- Sons of Tikvah Fund
- L'dor Vador Fund
- Mark Kasdin Memorial Fund
- Passport to Israel Fund
- Religious School Fund
- Ritual Fund
- Safety and Security Fund
- Shabbat Luncheon Fund
- Shabbat Together Fund
- Shiva Fund
- Shomrei Tikvah Fund
- Torah Restoration Fund
- Trees for Israel Fund
- Tzedakah/Yahrzeit Fund
- General Donation
- Needy Family Fund**

**This fund benefits needy families, unaffiliated with CBT

HAPPY *Birthday!*



Jill Aroeste
Burt Bauman
Gary Bergman
Arline Binder
Stephen Breikopf
Barry Dworkin
Andrew Goldberger
Wayne Gonchar
Paul Gordon
Hank Klein
Marc Lassin
Janet Levy
Jessica Marcus
Dave Offenbergr
Joe Plotnick
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Rabbi Robert Wolkoff
Arlene Cederbaum
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Sheila Feuer
Marina Finkelberg
Renee Juro
Rena Lepinsky
Ronnie Levine
Dorothy Naiburg
Marcia Schwartz
Sandy Sharon
Aimee Weber
Allyson Weintraub
Ilana Aufseeser
Leah Blackin
Marley Cohen
Sam Jiorle
Marisa Katz
Jaiden Radoezy
Michael Shultz
Mason Smoller
Rebecca Smoller
Hannah Waksman



TO OUR MAY BIRTHDAYS!





**SAVE THE DATE!
ISRAEL DAY PARADE
JUNE 2**

Registration is not open yet, but please let us know if you plan to attend.

We are planning to have a bus leave from CBT, and want to have an idea of how many people intend on joining.

Email the CBT office at office@bnaitikvah.org.

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.