
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 32 Iss. 10

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

June 2013

From Where I Stand....

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



State of the Congregation

When they came first to me to get married in 1999 it would have been impossible for me to imagine that John and Susan Rubinfeld would become so integral to our congregation. But with every happy occasion and even with their bereavements their commitments to B'nai Tikvah have constantly grown. Last year they stood proudly on the bima with Sam at his Bar Mitzvah, and now John transitions from 2 years cracking the whip as President to 2 more years to help us stay the course as Past President. I'm grateful for his perseverance and his friendship.

The highlights for this fiscal year for me started with taking Jeanne and Tom Appelbaum (of Tikvah Tone fame) on a tour of Jewish San Francisco. Not only did we have a good time but it convinced me that, God willing, I will want to continue that tradition well into my retirement.

The High Holydays were particularly transforming this year as, from where I stand, the cantor, choir, and congregation all seemed to be hitting their stride. My reference to the concept of the "LANDSMAN" on Rosh Hashana rang true for me, as our group of congregants from mostly other parts of the country and the world now seems to have established its own cohesive Jewish character and cultural affinity.

Case in point – both of our annual fundraisers, the restaurant walk and spring gala, were not only huge successes but, with particular thanks to Amy Lichtenstein, painless and joyful as well. The IRS scandal is a prime example of how giving can be wrought with

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Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I'm writing this article on the heels of Shavuot, the holiday during which we celebrate what is known as "Revelation," or the receiving of the Torah on Mt Sinai. When I was in cantorial school, we were encouraged to determine what we believed about revelation, because we were taught that your stance on revelation - on what God actually gave to Moses when he was at the top of the mountain for 40 days - says a lot about what kind of a Jew you are. More orthodox Jews tend to believe that most, if not all, of the written and oral Torah was given to Moses on Sinai, and that we have been passing down the written text in its entirety for thousands of years. More liberal opinions vary greatly, from the belief that nothing at all was transmitted at Sinai, to the idea that some part of the Torah was given to Moses, maybe just the 10 Commandments, and that we have been adding to it over the years ever since.

On Shavuot it is traditional to study all night long at a *tikkun*, as a way of honoring the Torah and our relationship to it. In some communities this still happens, but in most places in the Bay Area, there are classes until 11:00 pm or midnight, and then people head home.

I have struggled with Shavuot for years because I have never had the experience of really *feeling* revelation during the holiday. I have stayed up all night studying (though not in many years!), and I can say from experience that I have felt the most connected to a deeper sense of the holiday in the very early morning hours, just before sunrise. But even then, I never actually felt that the Torah was being revealed to *me*. Somehow the model has never quite worked for me.

This year, we held a community *tikkun* at B'nai Shalom. During the evening service before our learning began, Rabbi Drucker asked us each to set a *kavanah*, an intention, for the holiday. She encouraged us to imagine what we want to see *revealed* within ourselves during the holiday and in the coming months. Instead of focusing on the Torah being revealed to us, she had us look inward to see what personal revelation we were hoping for in our lives.

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Congregation B'nai Tikvah is a Reform congregation which, through personal attention, provides to its members an extended family. The congregation fulfills its members' spiritual needs, fosters their Jewish identity, promotes the perpetuation of Judaism and its members' Jewish education, and encourages a commitment to full participation in Temple life.

Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi
Jennie Chabon, Cantor
Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus
Judy Blum, Temple Administrator
Phil Hankin, Director of Education

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CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President	John Rubinfeld
Vice President	Tina Guterman
Vice President	Glenn Gould
Vice President	Jenifer Paul
Secretary	Bob Stern
Treasurer	Harry Wittenberg
Past President	Lisa Wenger

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bob Canter	Chuck Eisner
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Dan Lapporte	Amy Lichtenstein
Idelle Lipman	Barbara Loebel
Bruce Meyers	Rayna Ravitz
Mary Ann Wittenberg	Todd Young

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Megan Cardiff
Daughter of Sheryl Cardiff and Steve Cardiff
Saturday, June 1

Steven Potter
Son of Bonnie and Martin Potter
Saturday, June 8

Abigail Gordon
Daughter of Michelle and Craig Gordon
Saturday, June 15

Hannah Epstein
Daughter of Lori and Mark Epstein
Saturday, June 22

Nathaniel Jacobs
Son of Kathy and Josh Jacobs
Saturday, June 29

Shabbat Services begin at 10 am.
 The Congregation is invited to attend

Tikvah Talk

Tikvah Talk is published 11 times a year and is distributed free of charge to anyone expressing an interest in Congregation B'nai Tikvah. All news items are due the 10th of each month. Please submit articles electronically, if possible, to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, at office@tikvah.org (subject *Tikvah Talk*) or by mail to 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, (925) 933-5397.

President's Message

By John Rubinfeld



As I write my last article as your 15th President, I'm having flashbacks to my Bar Mitzvah when I wrote a speech reflecting on how this day and the years leading up to it had an impact on my life. There are a few similarities:

- Challenged to take on responsibilities you have little experience: instead of your Torah and Haftarah portion, it's fundraising, recruiting new members, planning events

- You have a relatively short period of time to accomplish them: instead of six months, it's two years
- You lead Shabbat services in front of family and friends: instead of one service, it's several and I'm presenting in front of the entire congregation.

As with my Bar Mitzvah, being President has made me a better person in so many ways I couldn't imagine. We are all faced with tests in life and for the past two years, I've had plenty. Each time there has been a difficult decision, I was fortunate to have the support of the Rabbi, Cantor, Judy, Phil, the executive and general board as well as the finance committee. I know I'm a better person from my experiences, lessons learned, but most importantly my interaction with you. Your encouragement, input (subtle or direct) and involvement has inspired me to give my best. When I look back over the two years, I'm very proud of all the things we've accomplished:

- Over 50 new families joined our shtetl
- Provided quality and well-attended events and programs
- Raised record \$'s from both the restaurant walk and gala fundraisers
- Added new committees (i.e. interfaith, online communications)
- Built a new website
- Began the process of selecting a new Rabbi
- Recognized our Past Presidents and Charter Members.

Let's not forget incorporating new words and phrases to the CBT encyclopedia:

- It Takes a Shtetl
- Nudge-a-rator
- Second Home
- A Single Grain of Rice can Tip the Scales
- Against the Ropes.

My primary goal was to make your experience (spiritually, socially, educationally) a positive one and that CBT added value in you and your family's life. I think most Presidents want to end their term with the congregation in better shape than when they started. That's a question I can't answer for you, but I hope for most of you the answer is yes. I know many of my predecessors jokingly tell me the best title in the world is Past President. However, I can tell you in many ways I'm going to miss being your President.

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Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



"Camp Is Life, The Rest Is Just Details..."

This quote was taken from a camper letter sent to Camp Newman after a summer experience which changed the life of this individual.

From this letter, Ruben Arquilevich, the Executive Camp Director, contacted the camper to see if he could ensure that her sentiment was enshrined for years to come. This quote is now the slogan for URJ Camp Newman, and it embodies perfectly what thousands of young people understand each and every summer. I call it the "power of camp." It is the unspoken feeling that something magical takes place while attending a residential Jewish summer camp (or for that matter, a trip to Israel). If you read my bio on the new CBT website (www.tikvah.org) you will read about my camp experience that influenced who I am and why I became a Jewish Educator. If it were not for my rabbi and the Temple Sisterhood providing me with a campership to attend Camp Swig, my path might have taken a very different path.

Camp over the years has become vital for producing engaged Jews in all walks of life. Studies show that if you attended a residential summer camp for any length of time, chances are you became an active member within a Jewish community, created a solidly identified Jewish household, and/or dedicated your life to working professionally as a Jewish clergy, educator, or communal service professional. With the cost of summer camp programs becoming increasingly cost prohibitive, an entire generation of young people is not being able to reap the rewards of participating in these life altering experiences. Many families must scrape and claw for any amount of money possible to help offset the cost of these programs. When I first started attending camp, it cost my family \$100 per week. To send my children to camp, it now costs me more than \$1200 per week. If it were not for various campership/scholarship opportunities, my family budget might be maxed out.

For those of you at Congregation B'nai Tikvah, you have such a source of funds to help with the rising cost of camp. It is called the **James Cohen Fund**. This fund was established in 1990 shortly after the passing of CBT congregant James Cohen. His widow, Sally, made sure that her husband's memory lived on in perpetuity by establishing a fund that provides monies to assist families in paying for a Jewish summer programmatic experience. Whether it is sending a child to residential Jewish summer camp or on an educational trip to Israel, the James Cohen Fund can help. Unfortunately the fund is in dire need of new contributions. Please consider replenishing this most important fund at CBT. It will only help continue to ensure that the Camp Newman motto stays fresh.

Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz, Sisterhood President

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, June 11 – Book Sisters 7 pm

Everyone is invited: “Two Among The Righteous Few” by Marty Brounstein, who will be in attendance. We are reading this book at a later date ; it is not necessary to read the book in advance. Please come and bring friends.

Tuesday, July 16 – Book Sisters 6:30pm

“Paris Wife” by Paula McLain.

Book Choices for later in the year:

“Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail” by Cheryl Strayed

Books recommended by Book Sisters:

“My Mother’s Wars” by Lillian Faderman

“What we Talk about When We Talk About Anne Frank” by Nathan Englander

“The Innocents” by Francesca Segal

“GoneGirl” by Gillian Flynn

“Brenda Corridan Went Downtown” by Donna Kaulkin

Rayna Ravitz

raynaravitz@gmail.com

Contra Costa Midrasha 2013-14

...growing the hearts and minds of tomorrow’s teens

Early Registration for 2013-14 is now available
and includes a \$20 tuition discount!

Enroll online at: <http://shop.ccmidrasha.com>

(Click on the “Early Registration” button)

Hurry – this discount offer ends on June 20, 2013!

About Contra Costa Midrasha: Jewish teens in grades 8-12 from all over Contra Costa County gather every Wednesday night from 7:15-9:15pm at our Walnut Creek campus. They spend time with other Jewish teens – learning and laughing together.

Highlights of the year also include 3 retreats, inspiring electives, a fantastic team of educators and donuts!

Social Action Committee

By Tina Guterman, Chair

****Thanks to Diane Leventhal for organizing this Spring’s clothing drive for Wardrobe for Opportunity and for Vestia which donates items to a variety of children’s homes in need of clothing.** As one community we collected 84 women’s shirts, 26 skirts, 87 men’s shirts, and 85 pieces of children’s clothing!! (The organizations require exact counts.)

Thanks to all who participated. Your donations will benefit many. If you didn’t get a chance to donate, you certainly can get in contact with the organizations and donate directly.

Upcoming

****Relay of Life** will be *Saturday July 27th - Sunday July 28th*.

Come be a part of Team Tikvah, led by our Team Captain, Mike Cohn — walk laps at Relay, help to raise money for the American Cancer Society, and join us for Havdalah on Saturday night led by Cantor Chabon. You can pick any part of the 24-hour Relay that works for you and your family.

****Support Relay for Life by having lunch or dinner at Roccos’s** (2909 Ygnacio Valley Road Walnut Creek, (925) 947-6105) on June 13th. A portion of all proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society on behalf of Team Tikvah.

In Our Surrounding Community

**** ARM of Care** (Art, Recreation, Movement), an organization using creative arts therapies to help restore and empower those who have been human trafficked in this area, is holding their first big fund raiser at the Walnut Creek Library with Mayor Cindy Silva, nationally known musician and abolitionist Justin McRoberts, and founder of a new safe house in this county. This event is on Saturday June 15 from 4-7 pm. For more information, check out their website: www.armofcare.net.



Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Arthur Scharlach
Lynette and Alan Scharlach

In memory of Many Loza
Anna and Petr Loza

In memory of Jerome Brown
Dana and Tom Brown

In memory of Albert Siegel
Kathryn and Neil Siegel

In memory of Elaine Unger
Judith and Scott Barrall

In memory of Miriam Goldin
Flo and Loren Burns

In memory of Howard Goldin
Trish and Jared Goldin

In memory of Ilse Schoenholz
Debbie and Michael Schoenholz

In memory of Frances J. Milsner
Donna and Richard Milsner

In memory of Lev Malkov
Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy

In memory of Julia Blumberg
Alvin Trepper

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Peter Barrera
Patricia Viera

In honor of Robin and Larry Gordon's 1st great grandchild

In memory of Rose Gross
Anna and Walter Gewing

In memory of Sari Stadt
Leslie and Howard Strutz

In honor of our granddaughter, Mabel Martin's, naming
Ronna and Barry Slavin

In honor of Sima's Bat Mitzvah
Rina and Lev Shur

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Sima's Bat Mitzvah
Rina and Lev Shur

In memory of Seymour Appleby
The Appleby Family

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Sally Wilk

In memory of Irving Lerner

In memory of Alice Lerner

In memory of Joseph Lerner
Nessa and Robert Wilk

RABBI SEARCH FUND

In memory of Harry Bloom

In memory of Carol Rubinfeld
Susan and John Rubinfeld

In memory of Nessim Benhamou
Chanel and Tracy Benhamou

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Shevelin Fischer
Michael Fischer

In memory of Harvey Sidney Morse
Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards

STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Elaine Ehrlich
Flo and Loren Burns

MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In memory Israel Nadjari
Zaffy and Denis Welch

In honor of Elizabeth & Don King's 50th Anniversary
Joan and Dick Schwartz

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Hans Guterman
Tina Guterman & Douglas Polcin

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Doris Rabinowitz
Laurie and Steven Rabinowitz

TREE OF LIFE – A leaf has been purchased

Khloe Gordon, Great Granddaughter, April 10, 2013
Robin and Larry Gordon

Shalom Connection

Mazel Tov to:

Michelle and Ted Hochstein on the birth of grandson,
Owen Silas Hochstein

Get Well to:

Flo Burns

***Welcome to our
newest members...***

Jenny and Joel Guss
Naomi 12/2/2009,
Isaac 10/1/2012



165 have so far!

President.....

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Lastly, but importantly, thank you Susan and Sam for allowing me to spend time away from our home to be at our second home. I know it hasn't been easy for you, but your patience and support was an integral part of helping our shtetl accomplish some amazing things. Good news is we can be together during high holidays. I love you both more than you'll ever know.

Like many of us felt after we completed our B'nai Mitzvah, what do I do now? I climbed to the top of the proverbial mountain, what's next besides come down? For me, I'm not General MacArthur; I don't see myself fading away. In some regards I'll be busier now than as President. I've taken on the role as Treasurer and will be diligently working on paying down our mortgage, improving our financial position as well as negotiating the contract with our new Rabbi. Speaking of our new Rabbi, I'm on the Rabbi Search Committee and we know the magnitude of this important decision. I'll still be attending many events and services and hope to continue to have a positive impact on our community. I'm very excited about the direction our community is heading and look forward to working with Harry. There are a lot of good things on the horizon!

Speaking of "good" things, my last event as President is the June 21st Shir Joy Shabbat services. If you recall, last year we had a New York theme and it was one of the most talked about events of the year. This year, we will be honoring our fellow members who grew up in the "Windy City," "The City of Big Shoulders," "Second City," "Chi-Town" (I didn't realize how many nicknames they had ☺) of Chicago. From the Jewish influence in and around Chicago (Skokie, Highland Park, West Rogers Park), comes countless Jewish delis with local delicacies and famous personalities (besides our fellow CBT'ites) like Mandy Pantinkan, Jeremy Piven and Harold Ramis. I hope you can join us; who knows, we may all get a dose of Chicago blues and breakout with a rendition of "Sweet Home Chicago!"

It's been an honor representing you!!

ONGOING MEDITATION GROUP

You are invited to join our newly formed meditation group meeting each Tuesday morning from 10 to 11 am in the CBT library. Everyone is welcome, those having past experience with meditation and those who have never had that experience.

Each session begins focusing on the Torah portion of the week, a Taste of Torah.

There is no charge for this activity, but an email to philip.paris@ymail.com indicating your interest in attending will be appreciated. Come as often as you can!

Reflections.....

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For the first time in my life, the idea of revelation on Shavuot spoke to me! My *kavanah* came to me immediately, and though it didn't have anything to do with Torah directly, I discovered as I meditated on it that my intention--like most of my dreams and wishes--led me back to how I want God to be revealed within myself and in my relationships. I am so grateful for her teaching!

As we enter into the summer, when days are long and schedules change, I want to encourage you all to set a *kavanah* for what you hope to have revealed in your lives during the summer months. There are no big Jewish holidays that we celebrate as a community during the summer, and that really creates a perfect opportunity for some simple reflection on your life. Think about something you would like to discover about yourself, one thing within yourself you would like to have revealed, one aspect of your life that has been hidden in shadow for too long. It will help to ground you as you move through the summer and prepare you for the more intense reflection that we all have waiting for us in the fall.

LEARN TO READ HEBREW

There are many ways to connect with our Jewish traditions. One that many have found to be a challenge is the ability to read our blessings and prayers in the Hebrew.

Some of us were taught in Hebrew school or in preparation for our B'nai mitzvah. A great deal of what we learned may now be a distant memory. If you never had the chance to learn the Hebrew letters, or if you simply want to refresh what once was familiar, here is your chance!

Janet Brandess and Phil Paris, two members of our Adult Education committee, will be leading a class in Hebrew reading this summer. Join them in the B'nai Tikvah library for eight Thursday evenings at 8 pm beginning July 11th. \$36 tuition. Please email philip.paris@ymail.com confirming your interest in advance.

Biggest Myths about Legacy Giving

Myth #1: I have to be rich to participate.

Truth: Legacy gifts of any size are welcome. There is no minimum donation amount or minimum asset level to participate in **Tikvah I'Atid**, CBT's Legacy Society. A legacy gift does not come from present income, which makes legacy giving one of the most affordable ways to donate to the organizations you care about.

Myth #2: I have to be old to participate.

Truth: Estate planning is for all ages. For example, parents of young children need to consider who would care for their children in the event of their untimely deaths. Other people find that they want to make sure their parents, pets, or siblings are provided for, or that a favorite charity is remembered. Many people find that they need to set up living trusts as part of smart tax planning. Whatever the reason, it's always the right time to "get your affairs in order."

Myth #3: My kids (or my alma mater or my whatever) will end up with nothing.

Truth: The vast majority of donors choose to leave a percentage of their estates, rather than a set amount, to their chosen organizations. So for example, you can leave 2% of your estate to CBT and 98% to your kids! Or you can provide specifically for other beneficiaries and leave the residual of your estate to CBT. There are truly dozens of ways to remember CBT, none of which creates a risk that CBT will inherit at the expense of other people or organizations that you care about.

Myth #4: I can't change my mind.

Truth: Bequests are written on paper, not carved in stone. You can change your CBT-related plans at any time, just as you can with any other beneficiary of your estate.

Myth #5: I'll have to do a bunch of paperwork.

Truth: Joining **Tikvah I'Atid** simply requires expressing your present, sincere intention to remember CBT in your estate planning. You will be asked to complete an enrollment form, which helps with recordkeeping but does not constitute a legal commitment. At your convenience, you'll meet with an estate planning lawyer or financial consultant, and CBT will be one small part of a discussion that you'll already be having.

Myth #6: Everyone will know my business.

Truth: The Jewish Federation of the East Bay, which administers the Create-a-Jewish-Legacy program, periodically places ads in the "j" and sponsors events to recognize existing participants. CBT will also be hosting recognition events for members of **Tikvah I'Atid** and occasionally naming them in Tikvah Talk. We think this is a great way to thank the donors and to generate more interest in legacy giving. Nevertheless, your participation can be completely confidential, if you prefer, and in any case, the specific terms of your legacy gift need not be shared with anyone at CBT and will not be disclosed during your lifetime, unless you want them to be.

If you would like to learn more about this easy, painless way to help CBT remain healthy and vital for generations to come, please contact Lisa Wenger at lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com or Judy Blum at judyblum@tikvah.org.

From Where I Stand....

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resentment when the system is flawed. However, giving can offer all of the peace, well-being and atonement of the ancient sacrifices when done for the sake of Heaven and community, with the careful supervision of our Temple leadership.

My winter sabbatical gave me a nice taste of things to come. There are many cerebral and spiritual dimensions of the rabbinate which can flourish with more flex-time in my calendar. I am grateful to Rabbi Jerry Levy, Maggid Jhos Singer, and our own Cantor Chabon who stepped up in my absence and demonstrated other modes of spiritual leadership. Also sharing the pulpit this year: Mike Pechner (Sukkot weather forecast), Rabbi Ralph Mecklenberger (Our Religious Brains), Robert Rubin (Immigration Reform), and Rabbi Gordon Freeman ("Who Can You Trust"). Charter members also got an opportunity to share memories and offer encouragement for the future.

One last reflection on how providentially the world can work (sometimes). At the Break-fast on Yom Kippur Harry Wittenberg had a nice Yontov glow going when he approached me with hearty kudos for the services and an inquiry as to how it might be possible to assume leadership at B'nai Tikvah. I told him that there were others in line for the Presidency, but the line was flexible and ever-changing. 8 months later, with credit for years of Temple devotion, leading the Tikvah Tones and spearheading our revived Men's Group, I look forward to working with Harry and transforming the challenges of the next two years into a sacred opportunity for change.

Jewish Meditation Workshop – Tisha B'av

As Jewish people, we seem to have no hesitation in recalling the saddest of times. Next month is no exception as we recall a collection of tragic events, all of which fell on the same calendar day, the ninth of the month of Av (Tisha B'av).

Only those able to remain steadfast in recalling the worst of times are invited to attend our next meditation workshop. We will focus on the murderous expulsion of the Jews from Spain, the brave but futile resistance at the Warsaw ghetto and the destruction of our Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Could all of this have happened on the same day of the calendar?

That is a question we will explore in this next meditation workshop.

We will be in the B'nai Tikvah library from 7-8 PM on four Wednesday evenings in July. Our first meeting is July 10th. An elevator is available for any who wish to avoid climbing stairs. There is no charge for this workshop, but if you are planning to attend please email philip.paris@ymail.com.

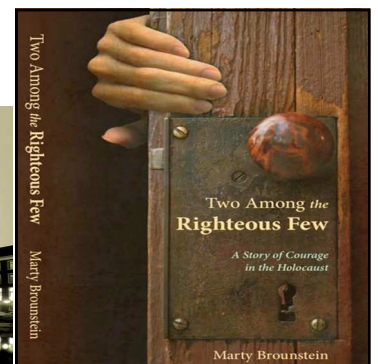
Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
Interfaith Story of Courage and Compassion

Sisterhood proudly presents Author Marty Brounstein

Come hear a special presentation by San Francisco Bay Area author Marty Brounstein on his book *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*. It is a remarkable true story of interfaith compassion, courage, and rescue, involving a Christian couple in the Netherlands who saved the lives of at least two dozen Jews during World War II and the Holocaust.

This story also has a *meaningful personal connection* to our guest speaker, which Marty reveals in his engaging talk.

The event is free and open to the public.
Guests are welcomed.
Book signing follows the presentation.



JUNE 2013 Sivan - Tamuz 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 <u>(Office Closed)</u> <u>MEMORIAL DAY</u>	28 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A <u>Taste of Torah</u>	29	30	31 6:30pm Shabbat Service	1 Parashat Sh'lach <u>9:00am</u> Lay Led Torah Study <u>10:00am</u> Shabbat Service - Bat <u>Mitzvah of Megan Cardiff</u>
2	3	4 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A <u>Taste of Torah</u>	5	6	7 6:30pm <u>Family Shabbat Service</u>	8 Parashat Korach <u>9:00am</u> Lay Led Torah Study <u>10:00am</u> Shabbat Service - Bar <u>Mitzvah of Stephen Potter</u>
9	10 6:00pm <u>Executive Board Meeting</u>	11 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A <u>Taste of Torah</u>	12	13 6:00pm - 9:00pm Relay for Life Fundraiser <u>@ Rocco's</u>	14 6:30pm Shabbat Service	15 Parashat Chukat <u>9:00am</u> Lay Led Torah Study <u>10:00am</u> Shabbat Service - Bat <u>Mitzvah of Abby Gordon</u>
16	17	18 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A <u>Taste of Torah</u>	19	20	21 7:30pm Shir Joy - High School Grads Honored - <u>Chicago Night</u>	22 Parashat Balak <u>9:00am</u> Lay Led Torah Study <u>10:00am</u> Shabbat Service - Bat <u>Mitzvah of Hannah Epstein</u>
23 10:00am - 11:00am <u>Men of CBT - BocceBall</u>	24 6:30pm <u>General Board Meeting</u>	25 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A <u>Taste of Torah</u>	26	27	28 6:30pm Shabbat Service	29 Parashat Pinchas <u>9:00am</u> Lay Led Torah Study <u>10:00am</u> Shabbat Service - Bar <u>Mitzvah of Nathaniel Jacobs</u>
30	1 7:30pm Ritual Committee <u>Meeting</u>	2 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A <u>Taste of Torah</u> <u>7:00pm</u> <u>Men of CBT - Poker Night</u>	3 <u>(Office closed)</u> <u>4TH OF JULY</u>	4	5 6:30pm <u>Family Shabbat Service</u>	6 Parashat Matot-Masei <u>9:00am</u> Lay Led Torah Study <u>10:00am</u> Shabbat Service - Bat <u>Mitzvah of Cassie Weisgal</u>

Kids Congregation Saturday, June 8 at 9 am

Please join Cantor Chabon for our Kids Congregation service.
Come see the Torah up close. Enjoy singing and a story in a small setting.
All ages welcome - from babies on up! The service will be followed by a small Oneg.

JULY 2013 Tamuz - Av 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	2 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 7:00pm Men of CBT - Poker Night	3	4 (Office closed) 4TH OF JULY	5 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	6 Parashat Matot-Masei 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Cassie Weisgal
7	8 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting	9 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	10 7:00pm - 8:00pm Jewish Meditation Workshop – Tisha b'av	11 7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class	12 6:30pm Shabbat Service	13 Parashat Devarim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
14	15 Erev Tish'a B'Av	16 Tish'a B'Av 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters - "Paris Wife"	17 7:00pm - 8:00pm Jewish Meditation Workshop – Tisha b'av	18 7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class	19 7:30pm Shabbat Service	20 Parashat Vaetchanan 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
21	22 6:30pm General Board Meeting	23 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	24 7:00pm - 8:00pm Jewish Meditation Workshop – Tisha b'av	25 7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class	26 6:30pm Shabbat Service	27 Parashat Eikev Havdallah led by Cantor Chabon 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Relay for Life
28 Relay for Life - ends @ 10 am	29	30 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 7:00pm Jewish Heritage Night @ the A's	31 7:00pm - 8:00pm Jewish Meditation Workshop – Tisha b'av	1 7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class	2 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	3 Parashat Re'eh 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
4	5 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	6 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	7	8 7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class	9 6:30pm Shabbat Service	10 Parashat Shoftim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Acedo

Last month the Men of CBT toured the wine country to learn how Kosher wine is processed and created. We visited 2 wineries, Hagafen and B. R. Cohen wineries. Here is a short version of how kosher wine is created...The most popular misconception about kosher wines is that they are blessed by rabbis. Quite to the contrary, wines are made kosher so that blessings can be made on and over them by just about anyone. There is absolutely no "hocus-pocus" involved in producing kosher wines. The word "kosher" means "proper" or "correct." There is a vast spectrum of kosher laws (or "Kashrut") running the gamut from the prohibition of mixing dairy and meat, to the list of prohibited and permitted animals and fish.

The roots of Kashrut are from the Torah (the Bible) where God sets down his regulations for what Jews may or may not eat. God's reason for the kosher laws can be incomprehensible to the average person (many commandments fall under the rubric of "Chok," i.e., divinely given laws beyond human understanding). The Torah further delves into the laws of worship and sacrifice for the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. Most sacrifices (or offerings) whether of animals, grain or other foods, were brought with a "wine libation," that is wine as an integral component of the sacrificial service.



Today, wine is still an elemental and essential component in Jewish sacramental services, both in the synagogue and at home. The saying of "kiddush," or the blessings over wine are critical for the observance of the Sabbath and holidays as well as for the wedding ceremony, circumcisions and other life cycle events. The kosher laws regarding wine have been refined and codified over the millennia by the rabbis so as to ensure maximal sanctity for this beverage. The purity and holiness of wine is an imperative due to wine's surrogate status for the sacrifices of old.

Having accorded wine a status above all other manmade liquids - neither beer nor hard liquor carry its religious significance, as they are not made from grapes - the codifiers of Kashrut girded it with strict production requirements to guard its purity. For example, no animal products may be allowed to taint the wine. Non-kosher winemakers often use egg whites or gelatin to clarify the wine. But kosher winemakers use bentonite, a clay material, to attract suspended particles and drag them down to the bottom of the barrel. And they never use animal bladders for filters. Physical cleanliness, in addition to religious purity, is mandated. Tanks, crushers, presses and all equipment must be cleaned three times by modern steam cleaning, scalding hot water and when needed, blowtorches. All barrels must be brand new and/or used exclusively for kosher wines. No barrels used for non-kosher wines may be used in kosher winemaking. Over the years, technology has whittled away at the difference between Mevushal and non-Mevushal wines. A recent study at the University of California at Davis, the nation's top winemaking school, has shown that it's impossible consistently to taste the difference between the two.

Also, only rabbinical supervisors (Mashgichim) are permitted to touch or handle the wine from the moment grapes are crushed until the wine is sealed with a cork and capsule into a bottle.

We had a great time at the wineries and met some nice people. We had a picnic lunch on the grounds while listening to live music provided by the winery. We also learned that the owners of B.R. Cohen are also the Manager of the legendary Doobie Brothers. There may also be a possibility that one day our own Harry Wittenberg and his band will perform at the B.R Cohen winery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bocce Ball - Sunday, June 23rd

Bocce ball courts from 10-11:30...Brunch at 11:30....\$24.95 (w/no alcohol) or \$29.95 (with alcohol)

Men of CBT will cover the bocce cost of \$10 per person.

Please RSVP to me at men.of.cbt@gmail.com for Bocce Ball so I can reserve courts.

Jewish Heritage Night @ A's game - Tuesday, July 30th

A's are playing the Toronto Blue Jays

Order your \$25 special ticket through Chuck Eisner - chuckeisner@prodigy.net.

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
25 Hillcroft Way
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

Support the CBT Relay for Life Team!

Just have lunch or dinner at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria on Thursday, June 13.

Tell your server or the cashier that you are supporting the CBT Relay for Life team
and Rocco will donate a portion of your bill to our team.

The offer is good for Dine in or Take Out.



Members of the team will be at Rocco's from about 6:00-9:00 p.m.,
so come join us for dinner and learn more about Relay for Life.
Rocco's is at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in the Encina Grande Center.



Join your fellow congregants in walking to fight cancer at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Martinez Junior High School, July 27-28

Music, food and raffles throughout the day.
Cantor Chabon will lead Havdalah on Saturday evening.

To join the team or get more information, visit our team website at
[Http://main.ascevents.org/goto/TeamTikvah](http://main.ascevents.org/goto/TeamTikvah)

Or contact Mike Cohn @ 934-1142/veefrog@gmail.com
Tina Guterman @ 212-7089/tguterman@aol.com

Visit our website, www.tikvah.org for other ways to support this important event!