
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 32 Iss. 11

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

Summer 2013

From Where I Stand....

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



DOMA AND PROP 8 – A CIVIL VICTORY

In the weeks leading up to the latest Supreme Court decisions, I was struck by the sign of one protestor in Washington. Standing opposite the cruder slogans of the Religious Right, her placard had a drawing of the dome of the Capitol with the caption: “This is not your Church.”

The issues of Gay Rights and Gay Marriage remind us that our Constitution, our courts and Congress are not religious institutions. In this country every religious passion is welcomed and tolerated, but none can legislate our collective civil morality. Civil morality in America is inherently a work in progress and progress has been achieved, sometimes painfully, over the last 237 years.

Jewish morality is also a work in progress as the Torah, unlike the 10 Commandments, was not intended to be immutably “carved in stone.” Not only Reform Judaism, but even the most orthodox revere the Torah as a living document always revealing new interpretations for unanticipated applications. Talmudic minds of all persuasions have always been highly respected in articulating and navigating these applications.

So we as Jews can defer to constitutional minds to navigate the waters of American law and legal precedents to keep this great country’s principles afloat. American judges may be flesh and blood but their procedures and deliberations are sanctioned by a civil belief in the rule of Law.

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Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I went recently to the Conservative movement’s annual cantor’s convention, and while I was there, I was surprised to find myself going through a transformation of sorts. For years now, I have been covering my hair on the bima with a scarf or a hat, but never a kippa. Long before I went to cantorial school I started covering my hair when I davened as a sign of *kavod* - respect - for God and for prayer. It felt appropriate and comforting to have something on my head when I prayed, especially once I became a cantor. But a kippa never felt right. It felt too masculine and as if a foreign object was sitting on my head. Rather than inspiring a greater sense of devotion and intention while I prayed, it distracted me from my prayers. So I stuck with scarves and hats.

This year’s convention was honoring 25 years of women in the Conservative cantorate. To commemorate that milestone, all of the women at the convention sang in a beautiful concert together at Park Avenue Synagogue on the upper east side of Manhattan. In one of the many emails exchanged about the concert, we were told that the *minhag ha makom*, the tradition of that synagogue, was for all women to cover their hair in the sanctuary. As I was preparing to leave for my trip, I kept imagining myself with my colleagues, singing together on the bima. In my mind, there I was with a pretty scarf on my head, with 59 other women standing around me wearing kippot. I’m certainly not someone who is afraid to stand out and do things in a unique way, but in this context, I wasn’t sure that I wanted to single myself out. I wanted to belong. So, the week before I left, I went to our Gift Shop and bought a beautiful wire kippa with beads on it. I decided to bring it along with a few scarves and allow the moment to guide me.

On the day of the concert, we all took shifts getting ready in the small bathroom, squeezing together to put on concert dresses and make-up. One by one, women went into the bathroom in jeans and t-shirts, and one by one, they walked out in formal dresses with colorful kippot on their heads. I didn’t take long to decide what I wanted to do. I took out my kippa, slipped it onto my head and walked into the sanctuary with the rest of the women for the concert.

What I discovered that night was that a kippa not only felt comfortable on my head, it also felt *right*. If I had been wearing a scarf,

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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

Temple Office (925) 933-5397
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 - 5:00

Fax (925) 933-6833

E-mail: office@tikvah.org
Website: <http://www.tikvah.org>

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

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Vice President	Dan Lapporte
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Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Nathan Acevedo
Son of Lori and Hugo Acevedo
Saturday, August 10

Rachel Gross
Daughter of Ginger and Darrin Gross
Saturday, August 24

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

Shabbat smiles at Camp Newman



Join us Friday, August 16

6:30 pm Wine and Cheese

7:30 pm Shir Joy and Installation
 of our New Officers and
 Board of Trustee Members

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.

By Harry Wittenberg



This is an exciting moment for me. In my first article as your newly elected President of the Board of Trustees of Congregation B'nai Tikvah, I want to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who put their trust in me. In a former article by Rabbi Asher, he mentioned the "inspiration" I felt during last year's High Holyday services in considering taking on this important position. That inspiration took me all the way to making the request to the Board, then being elected during May's Annual Meeting.

I would like to formally introduce myself to all of you, especially to those who may not know me. My family has been members of CBT since 1999. We moved over the hill from Oakland at that time and we were looking for a temple that would fit our religious philosophy and which was small and haimisch. Thanks to our good friends Sandy Gross and Paula Reinman, they introduced us to CBT and after attending a couple of services, we were hooked. Since then, we had two children attend Religious School, go through bar/bat mitzvah, and attend Midrasha for a time. I served on the Education Committee, the General Board, then started our beloved Tikvah Tones and the Men of CBT. My dear wife, Mary Ann, is chair of the Ritual Committee.

My past includes growing up in Brooklyn, NY, to Holocaust survivors, attending Yeshiva, and obtaining both my undergraduate and graduate degrees there. In 1981 I moved to the Bay Area, met Mary Ann a year later, and the rest, as they say, is history. We have three children: Max, 25, Lucy 22, and Ethan 19.

I hope this provides you with a good start to our relationship. I would love to meet everyone at Tikvah so please don't hesitate to introduce yourself, say hello, or send me an email at wittenb1@comcast.net. This will be an exciting two years of change and transition for our congregation and I am honored to be a part of it. One of my goals as President (you'll hear more when I address the congregation at High Holyday services) is Rabbi Asher's retirement and the hiring of a new spiritual leader for our congregation. It will be an emotional time for all of us, but one of great opportunity for the growth of the temple. At this point in time, our application is in with the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR - the Reform Movement's principal organization of rabbis) who will be sending us resumes of interested rabbis. Phil Weismehl and Jenifer Paul have been doing an incredible job with our Search Committee in preparing the process. This will take time and with mazel on our side, we will have one selected by the beginning of 2014. And don't lose sight that although Rabbi Asher is retiring, he will remain an active member of our congregation. And of course, there will be a continuation of things we love about

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By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



I recently returned to CBT after spending the final two weeks of June at URJ Camp Newman working as a guest education faculty member. My role is to work closely with a particular unit, to provide support and guidance for the staff, CIT's, and unit heads. I helped with the educational programming and the *t'fillot* (prayer services), and was also a valuable resource in mentoring to the adult unit heads. I love returning to camp each summer because not only do I get to be a fly on the wall to observe my own children, but I get to look after the campers in my unit and the B'nai Tikvah kids throughout camp. It always give me great joy to spend time in this role as mentor and educator, and I also get to "talk shop" with my colleagues who also serve in this capacity. I learn not only from the kids but from my friends. Whether it is other synagogue educators, or rabbis from across the region, the work we do is holy and vital to the future of the Jewish peoplehood.

All I had to do was look around our cabin on the final Saturday afternoon of my 2 week stint where the entire room was bursting with CBT kids, plus my children and some of their friends. In conversing with some of the kids, I came to realize that in the course of 3 years, the participation level and commitment to attending Jewish camping has increased at CBT by 300%. We had kids in that room who ranged from one who was spending her first summer at Camp Newman as an entering 4th grader to a young lady who is spending her 7th summer at camp. (She is going to be a senior in high school in the Fall.) As I have preached over and over again, the work I do as a synagogue educator is only effective if our families commit to expanding the educational experiences for their children beyond the walls of the CBT:

- Light candles on Shabbat at home
- Make attending Religious School more of a priority
- Socialize with other families in your child's grade
- Sit with your child during T'fillah in the amphitheater on Sunday mornings
- Attend Family Shabbat/Saturday morning Shabbat services more than the one time your child is participating as part of their grade level service
- Send your children to a Jewish Summer camp - residential or day.

Whatever you do, demonstrate to your children that their participation in CBT's Jewish educational program is more than just "Jewish babysitting." This program is more than a place you can drop your child off at and then go to work out or drink coffee/read the paper on Sunday mornings. Commit to being on site more. Hang out in your child's classroom, sit with them during t'fillah, attend one of the adult education program offerings that will begin in the Fall, work with them on their Hebrew

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Our June event with Marty Brounstein, author of “Two Among the Righteous Few,” was very well attended as well as a very interesting evening. We have scheduled Marty to return on September 29 to discuss the book after we read it.



Please be sure to JOIN Sisterhood when you return your Membership Renewal!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, July 16 – Book Sisters 6:30pm

“Paris Wife” by Paula McLain. Liz Roberts has volunteered to bring a simple Paris-inspired paper crafting project for us to do. I’ll pick up dinner at Sweet Tomatoes. RSVP: raynaravitz@gmail.com Cost is \$10 for dinner.

Wednesday, August 7 – Greek Dinner in Danville 6:30pm

Please RSVP to Zaffy Welch (zwelch01@yahoo.com)
Yanni’s Taverna
121 E. Prospect Ave.

Sunday, August 18 – “Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage”

We’re venturing to The San Jose Museum of Art to see this new exhibit. We’ll meet at CBT at 10:30 am to car pool, have lunch at the museum and tour at 1:00. Please RSVP to Zaffy Welch (zwelch01@yahoo.com) no later than July 27. The cost will be about \$10-\$15 for the entrance and docent tour. Let Zaffy know if you can drive and how many people you can take.

Tuesday, August 20 – Book Sisters 6:30 pm

“Gone Girl” by Gillian Flynn. More details to follow.

Sunday, September 29 – Book Sisters at CBT

The time is not set, but it will be during religious school. Marty is coming back to discuss “Two Among The Righteous Few,” as a follow up to our June event.

Sunday, October 6 - Annual Sisterhood Membership Brunch 9:45 am

Save the date for our membership event when you’ll be able to meet, mingle, eat and enjoy a catered brunch and help plan events for the year. Bring ideas of events and things you would like to do with CBT Women. We have a book exchange table so bring a book or books you want to pass on and find some books new to you.

Following up our Social Action Shabbat last spring where we heard speaker, Robert Reuben talk on the topic of immigration in Contra Costa County, we are continuing to look into ways that interested congregants of CBT can become involved in, and help support the Adopt a Dreamer program. Established over a year ago, the Multifaith Immigration Coalition for Action, MICA (of which Michael Fischer has been a very involved member), works toward establishing a voice for immigration rights in Contra Costa County. Out of this effort has grown an Adopt a Dreamer program for youth in our area. This program will allow congregations to work directly with young people who came to this country when they were very young and are now applying for legal status. Various forms of assistance are being discussed and the program should be finalized by this fall.

In the meantime, The Multi-Faith Immigration Coalition for Action (affiliated with the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County) is sponsoring a forum on immigration issues on Wednesday, July 31st at 7 pm at Christ the King, Pleasant Hill. (MICA is a group that our Social Action Committee supports and helped us identify the speaker we had at our Social Action Shabbat this year.)

Since the Department of Homeland Security began running its “Secure Communities” – SCOM program in Contra Costa County (March, 2008), 2,098 residents of the Contra Costa County have been deported through this dragnet program. 774 of who committed no crime at all. Families and children have faced tremendous economic, social, health and emotional devastation due to the deportation of a loved one, bread-winner or parent. You are invited to attend to a forum to better understand how and why this is happening and how we as faith communities can work to change it and support those affected by it.

Speakers include Attorney Grisel Ruiz from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and impacted families.

If you are interested in finding out more about the program or ways you can become involved in immigration justice issues, please contact Michael Fischer (mjf1155@ca.astound.net, 925-212-9653).



More Shabbat smiles at Camp Newman

President.....

(continued from page 3)

our temple. Cantor Chabon will continue with her boundless energy, spirituality, and musical gift. Phil Hankin will continue with his dedication and creativity in our incredible school for our kids.

I'd like to finish this article with some shout out's to our now Past President, John Rubinfeld for his service and dedication over the past two years. Also to Lisa Wenger, Chuck Eisner, and Jenifer Paul who will be stepping down from their roles on the Board. Their dedication and service have made a huge difference for our congregation. And to our newest members of the Board: Sandy Gross and Judith Barrall. Finally to Jen Paul and Phil Weismehl whose direction will make our new rabbi search a complete success.

Until next month - *with Mazel.*

Meet Judith Barrall



I grew up in Sacramento. After fighting in WW II for the Americans in the Army Air-Corps and seeing the devastation first-hand, my father felt strongly about the need to rebuild the Jewish community. A Brooklyn transplant to LA, he quickly fell in love with Elaine, the love of his life. They moved our family to Sacramento when I was 10. I met my husband, Scott, in college. A few years

after graduation we spent a year living in Hong Kong where I taught photography and economics at the Hong Kong International School. I met a few Jewish friends in Asia and we even managed to have a Passover Seder, despite the lack of ovens in most Asian kitchens! We were fortunate to travel throughout Asia during our time living abroad.

After starting a family of our own, we were looking for a congregation when our son started pre-school. All of our children attended pre-school workshops at B'nai Tikvah (in the days when their classrooms were in the trailers in the parking lot!) and had their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs with Rabbi Asher and Cantor Chabon. I seem to be most well known for my daughters who both work in the Religious School; Melanie is the Assistant Song Leader, and Shayna works as an Madricha in the classroom. All three children are active in Midrasha. Both girls have attended Camp Newman and Camp Tawonga for several years and are grateful for the Jewish Camp experience.

After so many years of the temple giving to our family, I wanted to find a way to give back. I am proud and honored to serve on the Finance Committee and join the temple board.

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Reflections.....

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some people would have known that I was wearing it in place of a kippa, but many would have thought it was just a creative style choice. Standing on that bima with those powerful women, I felt myself claiming a place among a new generation of female clergy who are changing what it means to be a cantor today. Just recently, the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College changed the degree given to cantorial school graduates from investiture to ordination. When I graduated in 2004, cantorial students from any of the seminaries were *invested* as cantors, while our rabbinic colleagues were *ordained*. Today, HUC recognizes that the work we all do is holy and worthy of the same title: all graduates from the seminary are now ordained as clergy. Unfortunately, the Conservative movement has yet to make that historic change for its seminary students. Still, wearing a kippa that night felt like a symbol of me--and my many talented friends and colleagues--hoping for that change.

Since returning from the convention, I have continued to wear a kippa on the bima, and I marvel every week at how good it feels. I still wear scarves and hats, but more often than not, I find myself reaching for a kippa as I get ready for shul. I share this story with you because it reminds me that we are continually evolving as people and as Jews. When I was in cantorial school, I had a teacher who said that the God he believed in yesterday is not the God he believes in today, or the God he will believe in tomorrow. That is something I love so much about being Jewish. It is our tradition to claim and mold as we grow as people. *May the upcoming New Year bring a fresh perspective to your religious practice and to your relationship to this incredible tradition that we have all inherited.*



Our 7th graders....

Turn It....

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reading during the week, become your child's class room parent, join the Education Committee. These are just a few examples of how you can become more involved and show your child that CBT is a special place and a second home.

If you have any other thoughts on how to become more involved, please contact me to discuss. My door is always open and my office is especially lonely in the summer.

President....

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Meet Sandy Gross



Hi - my name is Sandy Gross. I have been married to my wonderful bride, Paula Reinman, for 27 years. We have two fabulous children, Lanny and Marlee, who are grown up and living too far away. They both had their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs at Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

I was born in Oakland and, as my wife Paula likes to point out, I have never lived more than 15 miles from my place of birth. I am an East Bay boy and proud of it. We moved to Lafayette when I was 9 years old. I graduated from Acalanes High and then Cal. Roll On You Bears! I moved to Walnut Creek in 1976, met Paula in 1983 and we moved to Orinda in 1986, where we still remain in the same house. I am a creature of habit, but as I always like to say "Is there anywhere better to live than the Bay Area?"

I have worked in the family electronics business since graduating from Cal. Paula works in San Francisco and we like to travel, ride bikes, exercise and enjoy all the things we are so privileged to enjoy here.

My most memorable experience is working at UAHC Camp Swig in Saratoga for four consecutive summers and winters while at college. I still get together with friends all the time from those camp days. I was a cook in the kitchen, but the entire staff was our family. It was fabulous.

We have been members of B'nai Tikvah for 18 years. I joined the board this past year to support our good friends Harry and MaryAnn Wittenberg. I have enjoyed working on the Restaurant Walks for many years, and we cherish the friendship we have developed with Rabbi Asher and his family. The next few years will be an interesting transition for our congregation. We have a great group of people on the board combined with an outstanding staff and I know it will be a pleasure to serve you. I am always available to take your phone calls and discuss anything on your mind. Wishing you a fabulous summer and looking forward to

Adult Education

By Phil Paris, Adult Ed Chair

In our modern society, equal rights for men and women has a high priority. This was not the case in many ancient societies and is not the case in many contemporary groups around the world. Two recent Torah portions address women's issues in a most direct way.

After the death of a Hebrew man, a man with five daughters and no sons, the five daughters plead with Moses for them to inherit the land owned by their father. This must have been a weighty matter as Moses first consulted with God and the request of the five daughters was granted – with one proviso. They were restricted in their choice of husbands, being allowed to marry only within their own tribe! In that agrarian dominated society, maintaining the ownership of land within the tribe was of the highest priority. So, was this an advance of women's rights – or one more demonstration of their position being inferior to their brothers?

In our American society the taking of an oath has its place as elected officials and all members of the military take an oath to preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States. In traditional Hebrew society, it was possible to do much more. One could take a vow, a vow that connected intimately with one's deepest spiritual sense. It is not surprising to learn that vows of women were subject to the approval or disapproval of their fathers or husbands. That was a paternalistic society. What surprises is the narrow window those men had to annul a vow of their daughter or wife. If no action was taken on the very first day, that vow had the full force of its commitment, equal to the vow of any man. When considering they were surrounded by ancient societies that held women to be mere property, our Torah displays a new and elevated status of women in their homes.

Shalom Connection

Condolences to

Amy Lichtenstein on the loss of her father, Joel Lichtenstein
Bill Roberts on the loss of his father, Raymond Roberts

Mazel Tov to:

Pat and Chuck Eisner on the birth of granddaughters
Leah Anne and Zoe Esther Joffe
Debbie and Marc Usatin on the marriage of Rebekah to
Jeff Marks

Get Well to:

Nessa Wilk

JULY 2013 Tamuz - Av 5773

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Even Tish'a B'Av	Tish'a B'Av 11:00am - 11:30am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 8:45pm Book Study - "Patriarch's Wife"	7:00pm - 8:00pm Jewish Meditation Wednesday - Tish'a B'Av	7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class 7:45pm - 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Vaetchabban 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
6:30pm - 8:30pm Executive Board Meeting 8:45pm Jewish Heritage Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	7:30pm - 8:30pm Jewish Meditation Wednesday - Tish'a B'Av	7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class 7:45pm - 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm Lay Service	Parashat Eikev 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study 6:00am Morning for Life	
28	29	30	31			
Friday for Life... 8:00am	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 7:30pm Jewish Heritage Night @ 8:00am	7:00pm - 8:45pm Jewish Meditation				

AUGUST 2013 Av - Elul 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class 7:45pm - 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm Friday Shabbat Service	Parashat Re'eh 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7:00pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	6:30pm Sedered Dinner	7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class 7:45pm - 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Shelach 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study 1:00pm Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Melissa Azevedo	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8:30pm Executive Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class 7:45pm - 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm Vineyard Chazan 7:00pm Shr. Joy - Israel Seder Dinner	Parashat Ki Tavo 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11:00am Mishkanet Ha Amib Lachemot Seder		11:00am - 11:30am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 7:00pm - 8:30pm Jewish Meditation for Lilienthal Workshop 8:00pm Book Study	7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class 7:45pm - 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Ki Tavo 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study 4:00pm Mishkanet Workshop - Pot Mitzvah of Rachel Hesse	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm General Board Meeting 7:45pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	7:00pm - 8:30pm Beginning Hebrew Class 7:45pm - 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Mikazay - Vayatach 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan 8:30pm Shabbat Dinner 8:00pm Shabbat Service	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SEPTEMBER 2013 Elul 5773 - Tishri 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00am Morning Minyan Religious School - 8:00am - 8:45am	(Office closed) LEAVEN DAY	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:45pm Service	Rosh Hashanah 8:00pm - 8:45pm Taste of Torah	6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Ha'Azinu Shabbat Shema 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
8:00am - 8:45am Religious School - 8:00am - 8:45am	8:00am Preschool Torah Reading	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 8:00am - 8:45am Religious School - 8:00am - 8:45am		8:00am - 8:45am Shabbat Minyan	8:00am Shabbat Service	8:00am Torah Minyan
8:00am Sukkot Building 8:00am Religious School		10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 8:00pm - 8:45pm Religious School	Erev Sukkot	Sukkot (Office closed) 8:00am Sukkot Service 8:00am Sukkot Lunch w/Kids Potluck	7:30pm Shit Jay	8:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
9:30am Religious School - 8:00am - 8:45am	6:30pm General Food Ministry	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 8:00pm - 8:45pm Religious School	5:30pm Pizza Dinner 8:00pm Shabbat Torah	Simchat Torah (Office closed)	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Bereshit 8:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
8:00am - 8:45am Religious School - 8:00am - 8:45am						

We regret that due to a computer hardware problem, we were not able to include "Contributions" in this edition of Tikvah Talk.

SAVE THE DATE!

"A Taste Of Walnut Creek 2013"
16th Annual Restaurant Walk

"The Original Walking Tour of Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants"

Tuesday, October 1, 2013 6:00 to 9:00 pm

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The multiple deliberations on Prop 8 have now reached a happy plateau. My heart as a proud American is with the LGBT couples whose human strivings have now been more fully acknowledged. But it only confuses the issue for rabbis or any clergy to officiate at those civil ceremonies. When the Religious Rights will one day understand that our country's institutions are not their church, they must also be assured that our country guarantees their freedom to their religious beliefs. Rabbis, ministers, and priests on the steps of City Hall only cloud the issue.

In the flood of emotion surrounding gay marriage none of these subtleties is easy to absorb. I'm, therefore, particularly pleased that Brian Goldman, who helped author the brief for the pivotal ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, will be with us to clarify the legal process by which Prop 8 was overruled.

On Friday, August 9 at 6:30 pm, Brian will help clarify the latest court rulings. Brian grew up in the Bay Area, is a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Law School. He is married to Zoe Palitz (of equally lofty credentials and daughter of CBT members Pam and Albert Palitz.) I was privileged to officiate at their wedding in 2008.

Please join us as we all make our way forward to understand our changing world.

Support the CBT Relay for Life Team!

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



Tikvah l'Atid....

Harry and Mary Ann Wittenberg are among the most recent additions to Tikvah l'Atid, our congregation's Legacy Society. Given all that both of them do for our community, it's no surprise that they care about CBT's future and want to help secure that future with a bequest. In this photo, they are signing a "Book of Life" page that explains why they decided to include CBT in their estate plan. The Jewish Federation of the East Bay collects these signed pages from legacy participants throughout the East Bay and compiles them in a truly inspiring Book of Life. So far, about 10 CBT families have joined Tikvah l'Atid.



If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact Lisa Wenger at lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com.



Men of CBT's Bocce Ball outing

BOOK SISTERS' RECOMMENDED BOOKS

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

"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

"Brenda Corridan Went Downtown" by Donna Kaulkin

Lisa Duncan
Photography
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Ten years experience

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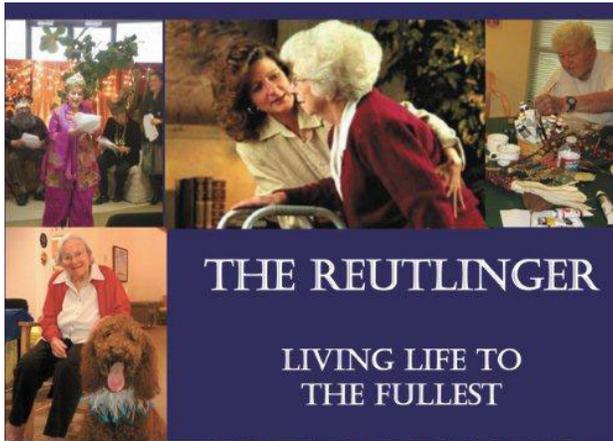
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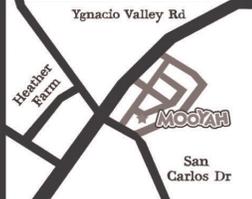


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For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

**CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH
HIGH HOLYDAY SCHEDULE 2013 / 5774**

SELICHOT - Saturday, August 31

8:30 p.m. Havdallah followed by dessert
9:30 p.m. Selichot Service

EREV ROSH HASHANAH - Wednesday, September 4

8:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

ROSH HASHANAH - Thursday, September 5

9:00 a.m. Children's Rosh Hashanah Service
10:30 a.m. Adult Rosh Hashanah Service
5:00 p.m. Tashlich – Civic Park, Walnut Creek

KOL NIDRE - Friday, September 13

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

YOM KIPPUR – Saturday, September 14

10:30 a.m. Morning Yom Kippur Service
2:00 p.m. Children's Yom Kippur Service
4:00 p.m. Afternoon Yom Kippur Service
6:00 p.m. Yiskor Service
6:30 p.m. Neilah Service
7:15 p.m. Break-the-Fast

Tickets are required for all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.
Complimentary Tickets are available for our Children's Services.
Contact the Temple Office at 925.933.5397 for details.