



I have met and exchanged teaching opportunities with many non-Jewish colleagues over the years. Our original trip on an available building on Hillcroft Way came via the Council's Executive Director in 1984. The perennial issues of denominational misunderstandings and Israel concerns have been worked through in a respectful manner. Moreover, applying spiritual energies to social issues can only be done effectively on an interfaith basis.

Case in point – in providing shelter to homeless families B'nai Tikvah has been partnering with Shell Ridge Community Church now for 10 years. Tag-teaming with 30+ other congregations we can lift dozens of families each year out of desperation from October through May through the Winter Nights program. (This year we are supplying volunteers from January 27 – February 9 and it's not too late to contact our member, Madeleine Bronstone, who is coordinating meals and other logistics.)

I've been on the Board of the Interfaith Council for many years and even served as its President for 4 years; but in my 'sunset years' I'm eager to encourage more Jewish lay involvement. Jewish energies have often been so inward centered that we have forgotten how invigorating ecumenical cooperation can be. If you're interested, either I or Michael Oxman would be happy to discuss ways to get involved.

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



When I came to B'nai Tikvah 10 years ago, I learned right away what a warm and kind community it is. The synagogue's reputation in the Bay Area is that we are *haimish*, a Yiddish word that means homelike in atmosphere, relaxed, unpretentious. That was true of us 10 years ago and it is still true of us today. But what was also true when I first became your cantor was that B'nai Tikvah was a tentative prayer community, open and ready to learn but timid