
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 33 Iss. 6

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

February 2014

From Where I Stand

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



Over the years B'nai Tikvah's connections with the Interfaith Council have been very beneficial. Communication with a 105-congregation network has kept us in touch with the growing religious diversity in Central and East County, and CBT has benefitted directly from an affiliation that was ground-breaking as the first non-Christian congregation in what was formerly the Council of Churches.

I have met and exchanged teaching opportunities with many non-Jewish colleagues over the years. Our original tip 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 when it came to participation at services. I often felt on a Friday night that I was singing in a concert rather than leading a congregation in prayer. It became my goal to change that, and to teach this community of wonderful people how to pray.

Fast forward 10 years to our Shabbat Shira service several weeks ago. The service was on a Saturday morning, not a time when many congregants usually come. But we had done a good job advertising the service and had promised a beautiful musical experience, so I was optimistic about how the morning would turn out. By 9:45 there were at least 50 people in the sanctuary, filling our space with happy Shabbat chatter. By the time the service started, there were 100 people spread across the room, a sight I have only seen at B'nai Mitzvahs. I knew right away that something special was about to happen.

Or at least I thought I knew. Because what happened over the next two hours was one of the most moving prayer experiences I've had in my time at B'nai Tikvah. It is a cantor's dream to be able to begin a prayer and to know that the congregation will be there to join you, to have the confidence that whatever you give, the people in the room will be there to respond to it. And that is exactly what happened at our Shabbat Shira service. We really, truly prayed as one voice, one community of people joined in prayer and song, laughing, crying, clapping, singing. One beloved congregant, who recently became Jewish, even got to wear a tallit and have an aliyah to the Torah for the first time. That was one of several unexpectedly moving moments during the service that reminded me of what an honor it is to be your cantor. The entire morning spoke to our power and potential as a community and made me feel so excited for the coming years when even more transformation will be possible.

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	Harry Wittenberg
Vice President	Dan Lapporte
Vice President	Glenn Gould
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Treasurer	John Rubinfeld
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Todd Young	

Upcoming Bar Mitzvah

Matthew Holland
Son of Adina and Ron Holland
Saturday, February 15, 2014

Elliot Stern
Son of Julie and Robert Stern
Saturday, February 22, 2014

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



Rabbi Asher's bi annual Tu B'Shevat field trip with 4th and 5th graders visiting a Jewish cemetery.

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 Harry Wittenberg



Happy 2014 to everyone! I hope you're starting the year with joy and hope in your hearts. I am so optimistic about B'nai Tikvah this coming year. So many wonderful things to look forward to. Just think about what you have to look forward to with your community this year. Do you have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah

for your children? Or a baby naming, or a wedding, or your own journey deeper into Judaism? How wonderful we can all celebrate those life cycle events together in our beautiful sanctuary and social hall. Our namesake alone signals the hopes and dreams we have this year for the congregation and each other. Take a moment to appreciate who we are. Just think of one thing you appreciate about our congregation and send me your response. I would love to put them together in a future article to share with our temple members. (My email is wittenb1@comcast.net.)

There is a lot to look forward to as a community in 2014. There will be a variety of celebrations for Rabbi Asher which I hope everyone is able to take advantage of. We anticipate welcoming new clergy. And we'll have more reasons to get together and enjoy each other and the special occasions and talents our temple provides. In February I sat on the bima at our first Shabbat Shira of the year - a Saturday morning service that was absolutely beautiful and joyful. Cantor Chabon, along with the Shir Joy musicians and some choir members, delivered an amazing service of music and prayer. And Cantor Chabon's sermon, a teaching moment about liturgical music, was outstanding. I hope we have many more of these this year which you can experience for yourselves.

Adding to that, that same day, Sisterhood and Men of CBT put on a Game Night where we played Mah Jong, poker, and other table games that made for a relaxing evening. I met quite a few new folks who have been members for some time, yet I hadn't had the opportunity to introduce myself to. What was so heartening was just seeing and hearing members of our temple schmoozing, noshing, and hanging out together. (I discovered how many guys really like Mah Jong - we truly are an eclectic bunch!)

And speaking of new, I recently met a couple who were "shul shopping." They attended the Shabbat Shira service and were truly delighted by what they experienced. Over the last six months I met quite a few new members, who upon visiting us once or twice, were moved by our openness, warmth, and sense of community. I hope one thing new we can all do in the coming year is to introduce ourselves to other members you may have not met. CBT is unique in its warmth because

(continued on page 11)

Turn It, Turn It

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



By way of follow-up to last month's Tikvah Talk article announcing that we will be having a "Day of Learning" for the congregation on Sunday February 9, 2014, below you will find the schedule of classes to be offered by our Religious School Faculty, Clergy, and myself.

This special morning of education is being provided as a way of allowing the CBT community (Religious School families, parents with teens, empty nesters, couples with no children, singles of any age - any member of CBT) to come together and experience learning of various modalities from the educators of the synagogue. If you are looking to exercise your brain, we have classes that will engage you intellectually. If you are looking to exercise your body, we will have a class that will make you "shvitz." If you wish to learn through experience, we will have various "kinesthetic-style" classes. There will be offerings for all types of learners - young, a bit older than young, and not as young as you used to be but still feel young at heart. So come and try it out. See what happens on Sunday mornings at CBT. I have a feeling you will not regret it. (p.s. - this IS a regular Religious School morning so all kids still must attend, but it is intended to be family learning time so at least one parent/grandparent is required to attend with their child.)

Schedule of classes:

9:30am-10:00am - Community T'fillah service

10:00am - 10:45am - Class Offerings #1

10:45am - 11:10am - Community Brunch

11:10am - 11:55am - Class Offerings #2

12:00pm - Dismissal

Class Offerings:

☆ **The Jewish Calendar** (instructor ZVIA BITANSKY) A holiday is on its way! Which will it be? Who is the bearer of holiday tidings? The Jewish calendar, of course. Yes, we have our very own calendar! It is different than the civil (or Gregorian) calendar. The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar that is adjusted. It divides time according to the cycles of the moon. To understand what that means you need to become a moon watcher. So, join me in learning and exploring the story of the Jewish Calendar.

☆ **You're in the Army Now!** (instructor MOR PERETS) During this 45minute class you will be introduced to the Israeli army, in Hebrew - *Tzahal*, and will learn about their different units and about the Special Forces. You will also get a taste of what boot camp is, while taking orders from an officer and running around for training purposes. This experience can be fun for the whole family, and give you a broad sense of what the Israeli Army is all about...

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Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Mah Jongg at CBT 7 pm Wednesday, February 5 & 19

If you are interested in playing get on Janet's email list : jgoodman@comcast.net or 934-8817.

Tuesday, February 25 6:30 pm – Book Sisters at CBT

“Something I've been meaning to tell you” by Alice Munro. This a book of short stories but the recent Pulitzer Prize winner. Be prepared to tell us which is your favorite story. If you only read one, that is your favorite!
Potluck dinner – dairy or vegetarian only.

Tuesday, March 4 – Jewish Film Festival at Century 16 Pleasant Hill

Meet for dinner before the movie. Get your ticket for the movie and join us for dinner first. Corner Bakery at 6:00.
7:30 pm The Dandelions (du Vent dans mes mollets)
France, 2012, 90 minutes, French/subtitles

Friday, March 21 6:30 pm – Sisterhood Shabbat

Please join us for our annual Shabbat service - let me know if you'd like to participate. Ron Brown, Executive Director of Save Mt. Diablo, will be updating us on the current condition of “our mountain.” Ron, a CBT Member, spoke for the Men of CBT service also. He is extremely interesting to listen to – plus he told us when the 4th Bore would open (and he was RIGHT)

Sunday, March 23 – Tour at Deborah Sibony Studio

Karen Sibony, a CBT member has invited us to tour her sister's studio in Berkeley. We'll have lunch after the tour. Deborah's website is: <http://www.studio1509fineart.com/>
RSVP for address to Susan Friedman: Susanbfriedman@aol.com

Thursday, April 24 6:30 pm – Book Sisters at Sunrise Bistro

“The Buddha in the Attic” and “When the Emperor was Devine” by Julie Otsuka.
RSVP: Raynaravitz@gmail.com by April 23.

Sunday, May 4 2 pm – “The Real Housewives of Walnut Creek”

This new musical will be playing for just a short time at the Leshner Center. We have a block of tickets for this performance. If you are interested in getting a ticket for \$30, please let me know as soon as possible. Send a check to Temple made out to CBT noted for 5/4 play to be sure you will have a ticket. Raynaravitz@gmail.com We still have a few spots available.

Social Action

By Tina Guterman, Chairperson

**Our community donated over 100 coats plus hat, gloves, socks and lots of toiletries. Vestia was very excited about the amount and quality of the coats which will go to great use! We will be having a clothing drive for children's clothes around the time of Purim, so please watch for details.

**In response to the Holiday Dinner Drive which took place in November/December along with many other participating synagogues, CBT donated a total of \$2563 to the food bank.

**CBT's Tzedakah box recipient for January through March is the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an immigration justice program to help sponsor qualified DACA applicants. The money will go toward application fees, legal fees, and other assistance that is needed to submit a DACA application. Please be sure to visit the Tzedakah box in our lobby to the left of the door to the Gift Shop.



Sisterhood's visit to the De Young Museum

Jewish Life on American Soil 20th Century Perils & Opportunities

Nine – 1 hour sessions Thursday evenings
February 13 – April 10
7 – 8 pm CBT Library

Rabbi Asher will lead discussions of critical chapters of the American Jewish experience in the 20th century. Is American pluralism the great Jewish experience or an exercise in futility?

Tuition \$36

I would like to personally thank those who shop at our B'nai Tikvah Gift Shop. I don't think our congregation knows how many wonderful items Irene has to offer. From beautiful Tallitot to Mah Jong accessories, beautiful gifts for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Jewish Holidays etc. Please visit our gift shop and explore the many wonderful gift ideas our own B'nai Tikvah Gift Shop has to offer. **Shop B'nai Tikvah First !!!**

We had a great B'nai Tikvah Game Night! Thanks to Sisterhood and their help in getting new players to the tables. (pardon the pun) We had 3 Mah Jong tables, 2 poker tables and 1 Rummikub going at the same time. Good food and drinks, gifts and prizes and a lot of fun. Look for another Game Night soon.

On Sunday, February 23 our Adult Ed Committee will host Jews In America from 10 am – 11 am. Immediately following we will have a Men of CBT Schmeer and Schmooze in the Social Hall. We will discuss up coming events and talk about some serious fund raising. Newcomers are welcome to come and see what the Men are all about.

The B'nai Tikvah Traveling Trivia All-Stars Do it Again!

The B'nai Tikvah Trivia team, "There's No Crying in Trivia," once again took first place in the 7th Annual Temple Isaiah Team Trivia Contest, held on Saturday evening, January 11th. This was the third consecutive year, and fourth time in the last five years, that the B'nai Tikvah Team has won this event. The B'nai Tikvah team defeated 13 other teams to come in first by a comfortable margin.



Team members, from left to right:
Back Row: Mike Cohn, Jennifer Rosenberg, Kevin Wilk, Michael Lachman
Front Row: Ken Wilk, Jill Wilk, Bob Canter, Mitch Canter
Front: Evan

Life Transitions and the Longevity Revolution

Very few of us have had lessons on aging. Lessons on growing up perhaps, but we are probably not highly educated on the problems of aging and the services available to all of our families. But not to worry, a truly enlightening series of meetings will soon offer discussions on critical aspects of getting older. There is no charge for attending any one or all of these programs of lecture and discussion. All of them will take place at Congregation B'nai Shalom, 74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek.

- Sunday, February 2, 2014 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The Sandwich Generation: What Part of the Sandwich are You?
Planning for the Rest of your Life
- Sunday, February 9, 2014 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Navigating emotional challenges and long distance care of aging parents
- Sunday, February 23, 2014 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Jewish Religious Practices & Customs in Burial and Mourning
Framing Questions Families Need to Address at Different Stages of Life

Jews in America

Your Adult Education committee will be sharing the history of several modern Jewish figures who have made exciting contributions. **Come join us in the B'nai Tikvah library on Sunday, February 2nd and February 23rd at 10 am.**

PURIM is right around the corner and we need YOU for THE MEGILLAH ACCORDING TO THE BEATLES!!

Saturday, March 15

- 5:30 pm Pizza dinner and carnival games
- 6:30 pm The reading of the Megillah and song-fest Purimshpiel with John, Paul, George and Haman!

Purimshpiel rehearsals will take place
2/27, 3/6, 3/13.

Watch your email for details!!

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Mildred Newman
In memory of Henry Newman
Miriam and Stanley Newman
In memory of Fanny Malkov
In memory of Avrum Girsch Malkov
Rakhil & Naum Sadetskiy
In memory of Bernice Scharlach
In memory of Gertrude Sherman
Lynette and Alan Scharlach
In memory of Sandra Green
Lisa and John McLaurin
In memory of David Lewis
Sue and John Lewis
In memory of Nathan Benn
Natalie Benn
In memory of Max Barat
Pat and Ken Barat
In appreciation of our Jewish Community
Marci and Robert Waldman
In memory of Arthur Becker
Kathy and Marc Berger
Lance and Robert Canter
In memory of Amelia Lewis
Sue and John Lewis
In memory of Matthew Miller
Julie and Robert Miller

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Max Gewing
In memory of David Gross
Anna and Walter Gewing
In honor of Kathy Berger's Conversion
Karen Stiffel
In memory of Arthur Becker
Susan and John Klein
In honor of Rabbi Asher
Cindy Turner and Brian Schwartz
In memory of Jean Sturtz
Leslie and Howard Sturtz

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Kathy Berger's Conversion
Karen Stiffel
In memory of Arthur Becker
Susan and John Klein
In memory of Harold Taner
Leslie and Bill Rupley

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Milton Blink
Robin and Larry Gordon

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Harold Wolf Jr.
Andrea and Harold Wolf
In memory of Jackie Boyd
Sharon and Ron Brown
In memory of Arthur Becker
Lisa and Howard Wenger
In memory of Shoshana Maizel Fogel
Yonina and Barry Bushell
In memory of Milt Bobier
In memory of Phyllis Bobier
In memory of Eileen Slavin
Ronna and Barry Slavin

JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Esther Leventhal
In memory of Arthur Becker
Diane and Victor Leventhal

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Maya Samsonov
Maya Bronsky
In memory of Victor Mazur
Lynne and Bob Levy

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Betty Shampanier
Susan Shampanier
In memory of Rhea Letush
In memory of Lillian Kornhauser
Nancy and Norman Friedman

WINTER NIGHTS FUND

In memory of Janet Rupley Church
In memory of Molly Weiss Tanner
In memory of Joseph Robert
Leslie and Bill Rupley

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

With thanks to Lo Shem Chavurah
Anna and Walter Gewing

TREE OF LIFE -- a leaf has been added

In Loving Memory
Victor and Selma Mazer
Karen Nicles and family

Turn It, Turn It.....

(continued from page 3)

☆ **Ages and Stages** (instructor *CHELSEA FERGUSON*) Explore the stages we all go through when growing up with your family! Adults and kids will partake in activities concerning major life events such as getting a driver's license, moving out and having kids. We will compare the differences between our opinions as well as the differences between what we decide and what society norms are.

☆ **Exploring Shabbat at Home** (Instructor *CANTOR CHABON*) I will walk you through the steps of observing Shabbat on a Friday night in your home. We will practice everything from the candle lighting blessing to singing songs around the dinner table. Come prepared to sing and ask questions!

☆ **Jewish Humor** (Instructor *ELLEN FASMAN*) What's your favorite Jewish joke? Enjoy a taste of Jewish humor from the Shalom Aleichem to the Borscht Belt to Jerry Seinfeld. We will explore the different styles and motivations behind the gold mine of Jewish humor that is ours to savor.

☆ **A Historical Perspective on the Creation of Israel** (Instructor *BOB CANTER*) The modern state of Israel was created in 1948, but the idea of a homeland for the Jewish people took root in the late 19th Century and historically goes back to Biblical times. In this class we'll explore the dramatic developments beginning in the late 19th that resulted in the historic creation of the Jewish State. [Recommended for students Grade 5 and up]. Class Offering #1

☆ **Hebrew Demystified** (Instructor *BOB CANTER*) Hebrew has ancient roots but is also a modern language. In this session we'll go beyond the "prayer book Hebrew" to explore some of the origins of the Hebrew language and some fun examples of how 21st Century terminology has been incorporated into this ancient language. [Recommended for students Grade 3 and up]. Class Offering #2

☆ **What the heck is Havdalah?** (Instructor *GABRIELLE JONES*) Are you wondering if Shabbat REALLY has an ending? We make such a production when Shabbat arrives, shouldn't we do something equally spectacular when it leaves? Havdalah is IT! Come learn how to do the Havdalah ritual - give yourself a chance to combine something that smells good, something that tastes good and something that looks good AND have a good time with your family too!

☆ **Israel, is it just camels and bombing?** (Instructor *JULIA BABKA-KURZROCK*) If you know about Israel or you would like to join in the conversation, please come to this class. This is the class for you, if you're: curious, ready to plan a trip, eager to learn, share your knowledge or experiences. Israel is no longer the same country that Mark Twain visited - a desolate desert with just rocks and sand. This list will not cover it all, but come learn about its: ancient history, modern inventions and high tech, night life, culture, successful agriculture and irrigation, mountains, deserts (yes, they're still there Mr. Twain), snow (lots this past winter), vineyards (excellent wines), great cuisine and more. Is there something you can contribute to this session? Please bring it with you to share.

☆ **Jewish Aerobics – Israeli Dance until you Shvitz** (Instructor *PHIL HANKIN*) Once upon a time, I made a living teaching Israeli dance at camps, synagogues, and even Bar/Bat Mitzvah parties. Better yet, I was 15 pounds lighter. Interested in getting your shvitz on? We will learn the basic Israeli dance steps so you will not feel like an outsider during the next group Hora. We will also look at the evolution of Israeli dance as a form of storytelling.

☆ **Pirkei Avot Through Art** (Instructor *HAGIT MILLER*) Pirkei Avot. What is it? These are the Torah's views on ethics and interpersonal relationships. Rabbi Ben Azzai said "Mitzvah Goreret Mitzvah Avera Goreret Avera". Come learn what Ben Azzai's Mishnah (teaching) means by participating in a discussion followed by an art project.

☆ **The Trials of Dreyfus, Beilis, and Leo Frank: 20th Century Omens and American Jewish History** (Instructor *RABBI ASHER*) Between 1894 and 1913 three show-trials of Jewish defendants demonstrated the bizarre images of Jews in France, Russia, and even here on American soil. As a prelude to my Thursday evening class on American Jewish history (starting February 13th) we will discuss the perils of Jewish life in the Diaspora and consider whether those perils have been overcome.



CBT is proud
to co-sponsor two outstanding films

The 19th Annual East Bay International Jewish Film Festival

American Jerusalem: Jews & the Making of San Francisco

Monday, March 10, 5:45 pm, Century 16 Theatres,
Pleasant Hill

The history of San Francisco comes alive in this fascinating documentary that begins in 1848 and the city's transformation from a remote seaside village to a bustling town. During the Gold Rush and continuing after the 1906 Earthquake, Jewish immigrants successfully integrated into the city, becoming civic influentials, prominent merchants and political leaders. The Jewish community thrived because San Francisco was a unique place - diverse, accepting, and open to innovation.

The Dandelions (Du Vent dans Mes Mollets)

Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 pm, Century 16 Theatres, PH

Isabella Rossellini co-stars in this sweet "dramedy" about sassy, nine year-old Rachel Gladstein and her adoring but overprotective parents. Set in 1989's provincial France, Rachel's Tunisian-Jewish mother bestows love through her tasty meatballs, while her handy-man father spends more time with Rachel's best friend's single mother than with his own family. Amidst the ups and downs of family life, Rachel seeks a friendship with her eccentric child psychologist (Rossellini).

For a complete schedule of the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival and to order tickets: eastbayjewish-film.org or call the Jewish Federation of the East Bay at 510.318.6484.



The Jewish Federation
The Jewish Community Foundation
OF THE EAST BAY

eastbayjewishfilm.org

jfed.org

JOIN US SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2014!



CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA'S 6TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER EVENT

An evening of international food, drinks, auctions & more!

Featuring Live Music by The Tikvah Tones, Dinner and Silent & Live Auctions

BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION, DANVILLE

To buy tickets, make a donation or get information...



THE LONGEVITY REVOLUTION

Aging: If it's not yet your issue, it will be.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS:

CHALLENGES

Sunday, February 9, 3:00 – 5:00 PM
Cong. B'nai Shalom, 74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

Thursday, February 20, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Cong. Beth El, 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley



The Jewish Federation
The Jewish Community Foundation
OF THE EAST BAY

jfed.org/longevityrevolution

FEBRUARY 2014 Adar I 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am Religious School 10:00am Jews In America 7:00pm Cemetery survey follow up meeting	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 6:30pm General Board Meeting	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Terumah Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - 4th graders participating
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 9:30am Religious School 10:00am Jews In America	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 7:00pm - 9:00pm Mah Jongg	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge	Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Tetzaveh Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Winter Nights Homeless Shelter @ Shell Ridge 9:30am Religious School - A DAY OF LEARNING! 1:00pm - 4:30pm Federation Regional Teacher Training	5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	6:30pm - 8:00pm RS Education Committee	7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Ki Tisa 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Holland
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
NO Religious School	(Office closed) Presidents Day	NO Religious School 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 7:00pm - 8:00pm Social Action Committee Meeting	7:00pm - 9:00pm Mah Jongg	7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	7:30pm Shir Joy	Parashat Vayakhel 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Elliot Stern
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
9:30am Religious School 10:00am Jews In America 11:00am Schmear & Schmooze 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session III	6:30pm General Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 6:30pm Book Sisters		7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Pekudei Shabbat Shekalim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

MARCH 2014 Adar I - Adar II 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
9:30am Religious School 10:00am Jews In America 11:00am Schmear & Schmooze 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session III	6:30pm General Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 6:30pm Book Sisters		7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Pekudei Shabbat Shekalim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am Religious School 10:00am Exploring Purim 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session III	7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:30pm Sisterhood to Film Festival		7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	Jewish Film Festival 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Vayikra Jewish Film Festival 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Assael
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Jewish Film Festival 9:30am Religious School 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session III	Jewish Film Festival 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting	Jewish Film Festival 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	Jewish Film Festival	Jewish Film Festival 7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Tzav Purim tonight! 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Purim 9:30am Religious School - MITZVAH DAY!	Shushan Purim	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	6:30pm - 8:00pm RS Education Committee	7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	Jewish Film Festival 7:30pm Shir Joy - Sisterhood Shabbat	Parashat Shmini Jewish Film Festival 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - 3rd graders participating
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Jewish Film Festival 9:30am Religious School	6:30pm General Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School		7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Tazria 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am Religious School 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session III	7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School		7:00pm Jewish Life on American Soil	6:30pm Family Shabbat Service - 2nd graders participating	Parashat Metzora 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan

Contra Costa Midrasha

By Devra C. Arons, CCM Director

We continue with great programs and events in February.

“Travel Around the World” on February 22, 2014 with Contra Costa Midrasha at our 6th annual fundraiser event, happening at Beth Chaim Congregation at Danville. The event will feature the live music of B’nai Tikvah’s house band, “The Tikvah Tones,” international food, drinks, a dessert reception, and silent and live auctions. The highlight of the evening will come from Midrasha teens, who will share the impact of Midrasha on their lives. All are invited to attend. Proceeds support Contra Costa Midrasha’s programs, teens and educators.

If you are looking for more Jewish adult education, then **join Midrasha on the third Wednesdays in January, February and March for a series of Jewish educational forums**, taught by Contra Costa Midrasha’s sponsoring synagogue rabbis. Rabbi Drucker taught the first session on the Jewish Digital Etiquette around *lashon hara*/gossip. This theme of “Jewish Digital Etiquette” will continue on...

February 19, 2014: Rabbi Dan Goldblatt from Beth Chaim Congregation

March 19, 2014: Rabbi Raphael Asher from Congregation B’nai Tikvah

Each evening will feature an hour-long educational session from 7:30-8:30pm, followed by time to snack and schmooze, ending at 9:15pm. All three sessions will occur in the library at Congregation B’nai Shalom (74 Eckley Lane in Walnut Creek, at the Midrasha site, during Midrasha) \$12 for the two remaining sessions! Online RSVP and payment can be found at www.shop.ccmidrasha.com. (No one will be turned away for lack of funds...) Any adult or parent in our community is welcome to attend.

This year Midrasha is trying a new program for our high school seniors. We simply calling it “Senior Seminar.” Here is what is different:

- Seniors participate in learning and discussion with educator, Loal Isaacs during the whole 2-hour Midrasha night. (They don’t do electives this year.)
- Their learning focuses on three areas of development – personal, family and becoming a Jewish adult. All sessions have included both Jewish and secular study, designed to assist their growth.
- The group has class off campus once a month. So far they’ve gone out for dinners, studied at other synagogues and even had bowling night!

So far this program has given us an extremely high weekly rate of attendance. More importantly, it has proven to be a deep and enriching opportunity for our teens in this important transition time of their lives. Join us at graduation on May 21st to hear about this program’s impact.

President.....

(continued from page 3)

with have a strong sense of relationship with each other. Let's call it: "Each one, meet one."

I also want to welcome those of you who would like to sit in on a board meeting this year so you can meet the chairs of our great committees and to hear what we're talking about. (We meet the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the social hall.) I facilitated a discussion with our board a couple of months ago about what our vision is for 2014. Together we came up with a few things (in addition to our rabbi's retirement and welcoming a new rabbi): More events to just socialize with each other, attracting new members, increasing the student population of our religious school. And of course, to ensure we have a fiscally sound budget that pays the bills and pays the mortgage.

During Rosh Hashanah I asked everyone to commit to a new year's resolution of attending at least one event this year, whether it be educational or just social, beyond attending services. Our committees, be it Ritual, Social Action, Sisterhood, Men of CBT, Religious School, or Adult Education, have something to offer if you just come and participate. One timely thing to get involved in is with our Transition Committee which was formed to help Rabbi Asher celebrate his retirement. They will be looking for volunteers to help in the effort - so if you would like to take part, just send an email to Judy Blum in the office and she'll let the transition committee know.

Thank you all for your support thus far and I am looking forward to meeting you and chatting more in 2014. Please don't hesitate to say hello or write to me if you have ideas you'd like to explore with CBT this year.

Shalom Connection

Condolences to
Susan Klein and family on the loss of her father,
Arthur Becker

Rickie Shaller and family on the loss of her father,
Max Martin Maier

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
25 Hillcroft Way
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For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

Rabbi's Retirement

Thirty - two years of spiritual guidance, teaching, friendship, dedication and service. To honor our beloved Rabbi, Raphael W. Asher, as he retires, we are planning a series of activities. Mark your calendar as appropriate. More details to come.

- **Saturday, May 24th at 10am**
A special 'homecoming' event just for Rabbi Asher's B'nai Mitzvah through 2008. He would love to hear from and see Congregation B'nai Tikvah 'graduates' from the past.
- **Sunday, May 25th at 2pm**
A celebratory afternoon of fun for all ages with music, food, Israeli dancing, face painting, tributes and more at the historical waterfront Craneway Pavilion in Richmond.
- **Saturday, June 7th at 7pm**
A more intimate evening affair with entertainment and toasts. This event will be in lieu of our annual gala.
- **Tribute Book**
A way for congregants, local community members, organizations and businesses to tell Rabbi Asher just what his presence at Congregation B'nai Tikvah has meant to them – and a loving gift for him to cherish.

As always, it takes a village.

Please watch your email for ways you can volunteer or contact Judy Blum, Temple Administrator.