

the breeze.

As I consider the impact of my rabbinate, I could certainly count up the students and the wedding couples both the number of affiliated and no longer affiliated who have come through our doors. The doors themselves have had a remarkable upgrade from JCCs to rented church, from a utilitarian makeover to the skylighted foyer and the “MA TOVU” tent carved into our current sanctuary doors. “How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places O Israel!”

The main thrust of my rabbinate has been to make our tent welcoming to all who may have felt intimidated or alienated by other synagogue structures in their past or may be new to Jewish spaces altogether. When one survey or another prompted another round of hand-wringing about our uncertain future, I echoed the encouragement of the Prophet Isaiah, “Enlarge the space of your tents!” (Isaiah 54:2)

*(continued on page 4)*

---

## *Reflections...*

By Cantor Jennie Chabon

---



We recently celebrated our fourth annual Contra Costa Choral Festival on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Temple Isaiah. It was a beautiful spring afternoon, perfectly warm and breezy, and the spirit in the sanctuary was equally lovely, joyful with just the right amount of anticipation. The cantors and choirs of B’nai Tikvah, B’nai Shalom and Temple Isaiah have come together for this festival in different formations each year—the individual choirs singing on their own, the cantors singing trios, everyone singing together—but the message and spirit of this festival have always been the same: