
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 33 Iss. 10

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

June 2014

From Where I Stand

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



Fringes on the Tallis and Other Loose Ends

It was very gratifying to look out on a sea of tallises, first in our sanctuary with B'nai Mitzvah 1984 – 2008, and then at the Craneway adorning Bar and Bat Mitzvahs 2009 – present. I strained my mind's eye to see what kind of an imprint my teaching has had over the years, but I had to look no further than the tallises. Perhaps they were covering up years of disuse; but all I could see were broader shoulders wrapped in various stripes and designs, and tzitit flapping in 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)

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Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



We recently celebrated our fourth annual Contra Costa Choral Festival on Sunday, May 18th 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: three communities coming together to celebrate our love of music and our commitment to the Jewish people. This year there was an added element that made the concert especially meaningful. Cantor Korn and I planned a surprise tribute to our dear colleague and friend, Cantor Marc Dinkin, who is retiring at the end of June after 42 years in the cantorate.

Cantor Korn and I both spoke about Cantor Dinkin's impact on us as part of the tribute. I told the following story:

When I was 24 years old, I had just finished my first year of cantorial school in Israel, and I was feeling lost. I had tons of musical training but very little Jewish knowledge, and I didn't know if pursuing a path as a cantor was right for me. I decided to take a break from school and to return to the Bay Area to figure out what to do next. Instead of allowing me to give up on school completely, my dean of students, Henry Rosenblum, asked me to meet with his friend and colleague, Marc Dinkin. Henry and Marc had been classmates at the seminary together and were still good friends. Henry knew that I would be in very good hands with Marc Dinkin as my teacher. He just needed to get us connected to each other.

It didn't take long after our first meeting for me to know that I wanted to study with Cantor Dinkin. Our sessions reminded me of how I imagined cantors learning years ago—one on one, line by line, call and response. Every week we met and he listened to me chant a passage he had assigned to me. With incredible knowledge and patience he would then coach me on each phrase, slowly but surely drawing the cantor out of me. Throughout our sessions he wove in stories about his life as a cantor and teachings about Shab-

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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.

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Lily Appleby
 daughter of Maureen and Joe Appleby
 Saturday, June 7

Eric Billy
 son of Wendy and Dale Billy
 Saturday, June 14

Ryleigh Wechsler
 daughter of Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler
 Saturday, June 21

Abigail Lapporte
 daughter of Juleen and Dan Lapporte
 Saturday, June 28

Kara Levy
 daughter of Jeff Levy and Shauri Levy
 Saturday, July 5

Shabbat Services begin at 10 am.
 The Congregation is invited to attend.
*Mazel tov to all our B'nai Mitzvah
 and their families!*

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
Vice President	Jared Goldin
Secretary	Bob Stern
Treasurer	John Rubinfeld
Past President	John Rubinfeld

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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



What a celebration! The event to celebrate Rabbi Asher's legacy at the Craneway pavilion last Sunday was "some kind of wonderful." There were activities for everyone - Israeli Dancing, Face Painting, a Photo Booth, and music by the Tikvah Tones - not to mention the terrific food. And the testimonials were heartfelt and sincere. And two surprises - a Proclamation by the Mayor of Walnut Creek recognizing Rabbi Asher's service, and a custom created SF Giants bobble head of none other than our rabbi. And he opened the box it was contained in to the music of "Take Me Out To The Ball Game." Such mazal, such naches.

With all of this celebration, I believe, to some members, it is the closing ceremonies to a life at CBT. Since my last article, I have had the opportunity to speak with a few veteran members of our congregation who reached out to me with reactions to my article where I discussed the changes we are approaching. If you remember, the basic idea of the article was about our transition. After the article was published, I communicated with two founding members of our temple about their reactions to the upcoming change. I've had both positive reactions, and dismissive ones as well. But instead of dwelling into those reactions, I thought for this article, I'd like to spend some time honoring our founding and long term members.

How can I express the gratitude I have for members who started our temple and who have sustained us through good years, and troubling years? Our founders and long term members have, over the years, created the culture we have today - open, welcoming, haimisch. They have befriended each other and provided the environment for Rabbi Asher to thrive over the past 32 years. And through their membership and contributions, both financial and through volunteering, has sustained us. So many memories to cherish - both joyous and subdued. Whole life cycles have been experienced.

So it's no wonder some have expressed concerns over our future as a temple. I understand those who feel that without Rabbi Asher, CBT will become something they may be unfamiliar with, or even uncomfortable. I can understand that there will be those who will decide that the temple is no longer the same place without our beloved rabbi. They'll bundle their memories and take them home. We all have to respect those feelings since change is very difficult. It's difficult to let go of some things one has become accustomed to, relied on, and anticipated. To those, I want to say thank for creating an institution that is sustained and thriving for others, including myself.

And then there are those long term members who are not sure what to do - to leave permanently may be too hard but to speculate what will be is as difficult. It is to those I would like to

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Turn It, Turn It

By Phil Hankin, Religious School Director



"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 has become the enduring 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). As many of you know by now, it was 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 37 years ago, my path might have taken a very different direction.

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 are 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. Now it costs me to send my children to camp 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. Several families were able to take advantage of the funds this year. Please consider donating this most important fund at CBT as it will only help continue to ensure that the Camp Newman motto stays fresh.

This is only one of the many ways one can receive financial assistance in helping pay for Jewish summer experiences. You

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Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Thank you to Sisterhood for sponsoring the Photo Booth at the Craneway party for Rabbi Asher and Jennifer on Sunday, May 25. The booth was busy for all 3 hours and it seemed to be greatly enjoyed. The photos are terrific! A scrapbook with all the pictures will be presented to them on June 7.

In May Susan Friedman and I attended a preview of coming events at the Contemporary Jewish Museum. Some very exciting exhibits are planned and you can be sure we will be setting up trips for Sisterhood. One particularly exciting exhibit is the history of Mah Jongg - we can be part of the exhibit and play there.

Speaking of Mah Jongg, Janet Goodman will be away for the summer. Would anyone like to coordinate for the summer months? If no one volunteers, we can resume in September.

Thursday, June 19 6:30 pm – Dinner at Rocco’s Fundraiser for CBT Relay for Life Team. Meet for dinner, be sure to tell the server to credit our team. RSVP: Cookie Cookieaz@aol.com.

Sunday, June 22 11:00 am – Book Sisters “The Language of Flowers” by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Hilary Balfour has graciously agreed to lead the discussion. Meet at Lisa Blake’s house, next to B’nai Tikvah for a potluck brunch and book discussion. RSVP: Lisa Blake usblakes@comcast.net



Photobooth fun at Craneway.

From Where I Stand.....

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When I look out at the congregation today I see a lot of comfort in our style of worship and practice and a lot of pride in our enterprise. However, I also feel a lot of loose ends, people who have been drawn into our circle but have not been firmly tethered by a secure sense of Jewish commitment and obligation.

Like the tzitit – fringes, there will always be loose ends, but they can only be tightened by mitzvot. For some these will be the knots of ritual, for some the wonderful twists of Jewish learning, and by others the lasting ties of community which can span the generations.

“CHAZAK VE’EMATZ” - “Be strong and of good courage,” and let your fringes flap in the breeze.

President’s Message.....

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ask to keep the faith with CBT during the transition. I truly believe that CBT will not only remain familiar and reliant, but may also spark a new interest in the services to come, new events, and new and familiar music - all of those things congregants named high on their list during the focus groups that informed the search committee when finding Rabbi Gutterman.

And finally, to those long term members who, after attending the town hall meeting where I introduced Rabbi Gutterman to the congregation, came to me with hugs, tears of joy and strong hand shakes, telling me how excited they are for our future. It is to them I say - we need you more than ever to sustain our legacy, remind us of our traditions, and join us in celebration of the new.

So no matter which profile you fit of those I mentioned above - to all of you I wish a blessing for keeping us, sustaining us, and who brought us to this time. I look forward to talking to more of you over the next year. I encourage you to support each other as we together go forward.

RELAY FOR LIFE Fundraiser!

EAT LUNCH OR DINNER AT ROCCO’S ON JUNE 19TH
FOR TEAM TIKVAH’S RELAY FOR LIFE

CBT’s Team Tikvah has partnered again this Year with

ROCCO’S RISTORANTE PIZZERIA

in the Encina Grande Shopping Center (2909 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek) to Raise Money for our Relay for Life Team. All you have to do is:

Have lunch or dinner at Rocco’s anytime Thursday, June 19, and Rocco’s will donate a portion of your bill to our team.

YOU CAN DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

You can benefit our Relay for Life team by going to Rocco’s anytime that day.

Team members and supporters are meeting for dinner at 6:30. We’ll have a couple of big tables reserved so we can get together for some salad, pizza and pasta – Become a Team Member!

Below is our summer calendar! Come to as many of the events as you can!

Thursday, June 19th - Poker Night 7pm. Come try your chances! The last big winner was our Dan Lapporte - so let's get him. Please RSVP at men.of.cbt@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 22nd - Schmeer and Schmooze BBQ 12 noon @ CBT. Any one who would like to find out more about who we are and what we do is cordially invited to attend. Please RSVP.

Thursday, July 17th - Poker Night 7pm

Sunday, July 20th - Schmeer and Schmooze 10am
Topic: Treatment of Opiate Addiction with Dr. Phil Paris

Sunday, August 17th - Schmeer and Schmooze 10am
Topic: Anti Aging with Dr. Bruce Presnick

Tuesday, August 19th - Jewish Heritage Night A's vs Mets. Tickets are available now! \$26 each for Infield seat, special giveaway and traditional Jewish food.

Thursday, August 21st - Poker Night 7pm

Questions? Please e-mail men.of.cbt@gmail.com or call Bob Grossman (925)305-0551.

Goodbye and Hello!

Goodbye - Lance Canter, who many of you know, has worked at CBT for over 26 years. For many years she said that she would retire when Rabbi Asher does.

And so, she decided to do so

June 30 will be her last day.

Lance, as many of you know, especially if you have students who come to school on Tuesdays, loves dogs and in her 'next life' will mainly focus on them.

We will say our official goodbye to Lance at Shabbat Services on Friday, June 27.

Hello - Chanel Benhamou, who joined CBT 10 years ago with her husband, Tracy, and children Aaron and Grace, will be taking Lance's position. Chanel has over 25 years of financial experience working with receivables, payables, payroll, financial statements, etc. She served on the Rabbi Search Committee and just joined Contra Costa Midrasha's Board. So if you hear a new voice answer the phone, it's Chanel!

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS!

In a surprising change of pace, your Adult Education committee will be offering a new class this summer, Bridge for Beginners. You will have the opportunity to join the many people who have found playing bridge a favorite past time - or simply a way to spend a very pleasant, social occasion. I assure you the game of bridge can be enjoyed at all levels of play. You do not have to be an expert to win a "trick" or make your "contract."

The group will meet weekly beginning on Wednesday morning, July 23rd at 10 am in our CBT social hall. There is no charge for these sessions. Please feel free to bring a friend - or just come alone. If you are thinking of coming or just want more information, email philip.paris@ymail.com.

REFORM CONGREGATIONS JOIN IN PRIDE PARADE

For the first time, the 25 Reform congregations in the greater Bay Area will march together in the SF Pride Parade, Sunday, June 29, 2014. Reform Jews from across the Bay Area will march together as one united group to show our solidarity with the Pride movement, proclaim our support of civil and human rights, and demonstrate our own strength in numbers.

Many of the Bay Area's Reform congregations already participate in the annual event, and this year's parade will be no different. What does change is that this year we will stand together as one Reform Jewish community.

"Our goals are two-fold: to show our support of the LGBT community, and to allow members of our own Jewish community to get better acquainted," said Rabbi Andrea Berlin, the URJ's Congregational Network Director for the western region. "While we are each members of our own synagogues, we are also members of a broader Jewish community, and marching together is a way to vividly demonstrate that unity."

To sign up to walk as part of the Reform Movement or for more information, please visit <http://urj.org/west/SFpride/>.

To learn more about participating with other Bay Area congregations in the Pride Parade, contact Lisa Wenger at lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com or call her at 925-876-6707. Lisa is one of the URJ's Bay Area Community team leaders.

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Renee Denwitt

Sybil and Lester Abelson

Andrea and Tim Dapper

Lance and Robert Canter

Phyllis Park

In memory of Virginia E. Becker

In memory of Paul Arnon Klein

Susan and John Klein

In memory of Rose Falk

Joyce and Harry Moebius

In memory of Milton Zagon

Kimberly and Brian Zagon

In memory of Judi Kay Brown

Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler

In memory of Howard Goldin

Trish and Jared Goldin

In memory of Sally Ruth Wilk

Jill and Kevin Wilk

In honor of Nancy McIlroy

In memory of Regina Edelman

Miriam and Stanley Newman

In memory of Irving Canter

Diane and Victor Leventhal

In memory of Albert Siegel

Kathryn and Neil Siegel

In memory of Boris Khalameyzer

Galina and Sasha Khalameyzer

In memory of Jack Maslin

In memory of Ben Silberman

Marcia and Harvey Maslin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Gabor Muller

Carolyn and Barry Isseks

In memory of Sidney Deutsch

Marcia and Harvey Maslin

In honor of Rabbi Asher

Jonathan Winchell and family

In memory of Renee Denwitt

Nancy and Arthur Solomon

In memory of Nathan Sturtz

Leslie and Howard Sturtz

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of E. Melvin Pinsel

Monica Pinsel

In memory of Dan Taylor

Yonina and Barry Bushell

In memory of Harry Bloom

Susan and John Rubenfeld

In honor of the marriage of Zoe Presnick and Derrick Boyd

Nessa and Robert Wilk

In memory of Irving Canter

Cookie Svingos

JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Miriam Goldin

Trish and Jared Goldin

In memory of Renee Denwitt

In memory of Janet Zeimer

In memory of Michael Cohen

In memory of James Cohen

Sally Cohen

In memory of Irving Canter

Patricia and Charles Eisner

Susan and John Rubenfeld

Laurie and Steve Rabinowitz

Nancy and Arthur Solomon

RABBI SEARCH FUND

In honor of Rabbi Gutterman

Jonathan Winchell and family

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Irving Canter

In memory of Renee Denwitt

Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards

STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Irving Canter

Annette and Michael Cohn

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Renee Denwitt

Judy and David Niver

In memory of Arthur Scharlach

Lynette and Alan Scharlach

In memory of Lucille Levin

The Blum Family

MORDOCH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Israel Nadjari

Zaffy and Denis Welch

In memory of Rosa Krys

In memory of Meyer Krys

Shirley and Jeffrey Weiner

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In anticipation of our new High Holyday machzor

Jonathan Winchell and family

In memory of Irving Canter

Susan and John Klein

(continued on page 9)

JUNE 2014 Sivan - Tamuz 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30am Religious School - LAST SUNDAY 3:30pm - 5:30pm Town Hall Meeting of Longevity Revolution	6:30pm General Board Meeting	Erev Shavuot 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	Shavuot (Office closed) 4:00pm - 7:00pm 7th Grade Graduation	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Beha'alotcha 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Lily Appleby
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga! 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah		6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Sh'lach 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Eric Billy
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga!	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah		11:00am - 9:00pm Rocco's fundraiser 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:00pm Poker Night	7:30pm Shir Joy	Parashat Korach 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Ryleigh Wechsler
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
11:00am Book Sisters 12:00pm Men of CBT Schmooze & BBQ	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga! 6:30pm General Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah		6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Chukat 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Abigail Lapporte
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Walk w/CBT @ Gay Pride	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga!	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah		6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	Office Closed 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Balak 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Kara Levy



Rabbi Asher walking into his retirement party at Craneway Pavilion on May 25th..... and enjoying his party!



JULY 2014 Tamuz - Av 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Walk w/CBT @ Gay Pride	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga!	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah		6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	Office Closed 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Balak 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Kara Levy
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga! 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah		6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Pinchas 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga! 6:00pm Executive Board meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah		6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:00pm Poker Night	7:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Matot 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00am - 11:00am Schmeer & Schmooze	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga!	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	10:00am Bridge for Beginners	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Masei 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am - 10:00am Relay for Life! 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Emma Vaccaro
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Relay for Life!	12:30pm - 1:30pm Yoga! 6:30pm General Board meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	10:00am Bridge for Beginners	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Devarim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Alden Friedman

AUGUST 2014 Av - Elul 5774

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Erev Tish'a B'Av	Tish'a B'Av 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	10:00am Bridge for Beginners		6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Juliette Benazra
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	6:00pm Executive Board meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	10:00am Bridge for Beginners		7:30pm Shir Joy	Parashat Eikev 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Carly Johnson

Turn It, Turn It.....

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should be thinking now as to how to begin saving for your child's summer activities – for Summer 2015. Contact the camp/program that you have your eye on and find out what opportunities there are to receive financial help. Start by putting away \$100 per month now so that by the time you have to pay the camp bill next May you will have saved \$1200. Contact the Jewish Federation of the East Bay and find out when their scholarship applications are available for next year. Whatever the methods, be resourceful and plan ahead. Do not wait for January. Spots at camps begin to fill up by November/December.

I look forward to my annual time at camp again later this month. I will be joined this year by 28 other CBT members who will be attending Camp Newman this summer. I also look forward to hearing about the others of you who will be attending Camp Tawonga and other residential and day Jewish camps. Having children spend quality Jewish time during the summer will have a lasting impact on their Jewish souls that could one day translate into them telling the same story I do about how camp influenced who they became. The investment you make now in your child's Jewish present will pay huge dividends for the future of the Jewish community.



Adult B'not Mitzvah practice reading from the Torah.

Shalom Connection

Mazel Tov to:

Shari and David Safianoff on the birth of granddaughter,
Elana Rose Gunasingam

Condolences to:

Bob Canter and family on the loss of his father, Irving Canter
Gary Goldstein and family on the loss of his father,
Phil Goldstein

Gene Kahn and family on the loss of his mother, Ruth Kahn
Jennifer Fennell and family on the loss of her grandmother,
Ruth Kahn

Reflections...

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bat, the holidays, Torah. Little by little, without me even realizing it, Cantor Dinkin restored my faith in my ability to become a cantor.

After two years together, I was ready to go back to school, armed with the confidence that he had cultivated in me. I should have returned to the seminary for four more years of classes, but the school gave me an entire year of credit for my time with Cantor Dinkin because he had taught me so well. It is impossible to know what would have happened if I had never studied with him, but there is a good chance that I would not be a cantor today.

I am so grateful to him not only for that time together, but also for the dear friend and colleague he has become. Our relationship is such an important reminder of the incredible impact that people can have on each other. It is a rare and precious thing to have a mentor, a chosen teacher who helps you to discover who you are meant to be. It is my prayer for all of us that we have mentors, and that we find ways to mentor others so that the delicate chain of connectedness continues from generation to generation.

Contributions.....

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SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Edgar Kornhauser
Nancy and Norman Friedman

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Renee Denwitt
In memory of Theodore Kaplan
Rayna and Richard Ravitz
In memory of Irving Canter
Katherine and Marc Berger
The Blum Family

In memory of Renee Denwitt
In memory of Carol Rubinfeld
Susan and John Rubinfeld

In memory of Robert Kemna
Gloria Kemna
In honor of Jared Rubin's Bar Mitzvah
Susan and Howard Geifman

ROSE AND SAM USATIN MEMORIAL FUND

In support of Cantor Chabon's CD
Sandy and Karl Bemesderfer

TREE OF LIFE - a leaf has been added

In Loving Memory of Janet Trepper
Robin and Jeff Brotman

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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Walnut Creek, CA

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

Join / Support TEAM TIKVAH in this year's
RELAY FOR LIFE

A 24 hour Relay Walk to raise money for the
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



10 am Saturday, July 26th to 10 am Sunday, July 27th

Martinez Junior High School
1600 Court Street, Martinez

There will be Music, Food and Raffles
Havdallah with Cantor Chabon Saturday evening

Fun for individuals and families!
COME WALK WITH US!

Use the Team Tikvah link below -
http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=57296&pg=team&team_id=1613150
or go to our website and click through on the flyer.