
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 33 Iss. 12

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

September 2014

Shalom, B'nai Tikvah!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



“Bend... dare to bend,” taught the Chasidic master Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk. “The curvature of the Shofar is bent... to teach us to bend our stubbornness and our pride. The sound of the shofar includes ‘shevarim,’ the sobbing staccato of broken notes to remind you that ‘teshuvah’ – repentance, the road to reconciliation, is a process... a series of steps. The sound of the shofar is broken, for in God’s eyes nothing is more whole than a broken heart.”

As you may suspect by now, it is that time of year again!

There is something deeply comforting in all that remains the same as one High Holiday season follows another. Many of us carry these sensory memories from our childhood: the first mournful notes of Kol Nidre, the sacred drama of standing to face the Ark as Avinu Malkeinu begins. The sharp tang of autumn in the air, the leaves crunching underfoot (at least on the East Coast!) and the feeling of excitement as a New Year beckons... its potential untested, its promise yet to be revealed.

And yet. These Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe) do change as we get older. One of the most affecting parts of Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk’s words is his conclusion: “... in God’s eyes, nothing is more whole than a broken heart.” As we move through life, we come to realize that we all miss the mark in some way. We have all absorbed losses, and we will again. We have all known the pain of being humbled or disappointed. The broken notes of the shofar echo the brokenness each of us carries somewhere inside.

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Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I had an experience with a friend lately that was quite troublesome, but helpful, too, in that it offered a glimpse into the themes of the approaching High Holidays. I was reminded of the need to prepare for *teshuvha* -- for returning to ourselves -- long before we walk into the sanctuary to pray together on Rosh Hashanah.

This experience happened, in all places, on Facebook. The details are irrelevant except to explain that one person’s words were completely misunderstood, and that that misunderstanding led to an intense and uncomfortable exchange between me and my friend about Israel. The topic of Israel has the ability to bring out the best and absolute worst in people, especially right now. People jump to conclusions and are rash and irrational with their comments. This is especially true online, where it’s easy to misinterpret even the most benign comments. All of that happened to me within the span of just a few moments last week.

I walked away from the experience feeling so sad, not because I had had a bad exchange with a friend, but because that friend jumped so quickly to judgment, rather than to our shared humanity. We all make mistakes, every last one of us, and we all have moments where the wrong words come out of our mouths or out of fingers and onto our keyboards. We say things we don’t mean, we hurt the people we love, we stumble through life trying our very best, and we hope, through it all, that the people we love will be quick to assume the best in us. Unfortunately, that doesn’t always happen, which is what this time of year is all about.

As we enter September and the craziness of the New Year overwhelms us all, take time to reflect, even just for a moment here and there, on the relationships in your life. How do you treat the people around you when you are happy? How about when you are stressed? How do you treat yourself? To whom do you need to apologize or to offer forgiveness? If you reflect on the big questions that are tugging at your heart BEFORE you come to services for Rosh Hashanah, you will get so much more out of the holidays. In that spirit, I offer you the following poem, from Marcia Falk’s new book of writings for the High Holiday season,

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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

Hannah Hoffmeister
Daughter of Alysya and Steven Hoffmeister
Saturday, September 6

Katey Melino
Daughter of Ilana and Jim Melino
Saturday, September 13

Jacob Gardner
Son of Marla and Todd Gardner
Saturday, September 20

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

Rebecca Gutterman, Rabbi
Jennie Chabon, Cantor
Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus
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

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Julia Babka-Kurzrock	Judith Barrall
Bob Canter	Alan Gould
Sandy Gross	Tina Guterman
Bob Grossman	Amy Lichtenstein
Idelle Lipman	Bruce Meyers
Rayna Ravitz	Leeaht Segev

Mary Ann Wittenberg

Volunteers needed for High Holydays!

- ✧ Bakers for Selichot
- ✧ Shelpers to transport books / furniture to our High Holyday home away from home
- ✧ Apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah
- ✧ Set up help for break-the-fast
- ✧ Clean up help for break-the-fast
- ✧ Set up the sukkah
- ✧ Decorate the sukkah
- ✧ Take down the sukkah

Contact Mary Ann Wittenberg at
mawittenb@comcast.net to sign up!

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



Returning home from a long vacation visiting family in Italy and Israel, I can't help but make strong connections between places I visited and our own wonderful congregation. In Trani, Italy, Mary Ann and I visited one of the oldest synagogues in Europe. Serendipitously, we made a last minute appointment to get a tour of it and some history of a Jewish community that thrived there in the 15th and 16th centuries. The curator opened it just for us and gave us a private tour. We visited the great synagogue in Rome too, also of ancient origins and still having an active community today.

Of course, Israel is rich in our history - but the greatest connection I made there with our community was attending a Shabbat service at a Reform shul in Netanya, with the presiding Rabbi Edgar Nof, one of the pioneers of Reform Judaism in Israel. He was so thrilled I was there that he asked me up to the bima to talk about our congregation. All of the congregants were interested in how we worship and we knew about the Reform movement in Israel. It was thrilling for them to hear how much we support the movement. At the end of the service, a number of congregants had many questions for me and Mary Ann. Interestingly enough, Rabbi Nof has visited Temple Isaiah, having strong connections there, and he is interested in visiting us the next time he comes to California.

Another very interesting part of our trip in Israel was the conflict going on in Gaza. Everywhere we went, we were thanked for being "brave tourists" since tourists were scarce and the industry was hurting significantly because of so many cancellations. Yet, aside from one siren on our first day there, we were not effected anywhere we went and at no time did we feel unsafe. My family connection ensured we went where it was safe - which was practically everywhere.

So why do I mention those events and how do I tie them together so I have a coherent newsletter article? To me, and I hope for you, CBT represents Judaism on so many different levels. From the historic perspective, we are the embodiment of a very long legacy of culture and faith. I felt a connection to our past through the places I visited. And being in Israel, truly a Jewish state, the passion and pride I felt there for being Jewish and living it day in and day out, was incredibly moving to me. Unless you experience it, it's hard to convey what it's like being in a country where the majority of people are Jewish, where Jewish ritual permeates everything and the love of the country is so strong. Also striking was the diversity of people: European, African, Russian, Middle Eastern - an incredible melting pot of Jews and non-Jews alike.

And being Reform, we are a beacon to those congregations in Israel who are open to a different way to connect with each

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Turn It, Turn It

By Phil Hankin, Religious School Director



“When God began to create heaven and earth – the earth being **Tohu Va’vohu** (unformed and void)...God said, ‘Let there be light’ and there was light...” (Genesis 1:1-3) Just as God took what was Tohu Va’vohu and created light, so to do we take time each year to take stock of our lives in the past year and make light out of our personal Tohu Va’vohu. It is during the time of the Chagim (the High Holiday time period) that we are provided with the opportunity to take stock of our past year’s accomplishments (both good and bad) and melt them down into an unformed mass (tohu va’vohu) in order to sculpt and shape the coming year. This is our chance to make a fresh start, to gain a greater perspective on the world and our place in it.

Every calendar has a set rhythm and we are aware and accustomed to these rhythms. The seasons change every year at the appropriate times, and holidays come and go according to those seasonal changes. Education, though, is not dependant upon the calendar. Learning is a non-stop, trans-calendar flight through life. Although the school year is artificially structured so as not to subject students to classrooms during the heat of the summer, it does give students the opportunity to have a check-in with themselves regarding their past performances. Regardless of what the report card states at the end of the year, the next year is a clean slate and the opportunity for students to refine their scholastic game.

Jewish education, though, is rhythmic in the sense that the Torah drives the calendar, not the other way around. Jewish education is a life-long process with no clear “graduation” from structured learning. A large percentage of adults are now filling synagogue classrooms around the country as a way for them to gain what they missed when they were young. It is a vast misconception that Jewish education ends with B’nai Mitzvah. One becomes a B’nai Mitzvah; the ceremony is the opportunity for a young adult to demonstrate to the adults of his/her community that they are ready to handle the duties asked of a Jewish adult. Learning should not end there.

Here at CBT, we begin again a new school year, with a new Rabbi, and a new opportunity for students and parents to become more of a community of learners (and teachers). Beginning on **Sunday, September 7**, with our opening t’fillah in the amphitheater followed by a special parent breakfast (sponsored by the Men of CBT), we have a renewed chance to dedicate ourselves to the education of our children. Come and join us each week during t’fillah; sit in on your child’s class to see what is taking place; join our new *NJOP Crash Course in Hebrew Reading* for adults that will begin in October; participate with the entire family in The Day Of Learning in February and Mitzvah Day in March. Whatever the opportunity, be a presence in your child’s lives as it pertains to Jewish Education. The more

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We are looking forward to greeting our new Rabbi, Rebecca Gutterman. I hope she will be a new Sisterhood member, too. At our last Book Sisters meeting we decided that we need to meet once a month because there are so many good books and we are not getting to read them fast enough. Starting October 21, we will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the each month. Join us when you can.

Remember to re-join Sisterhood by using the form included in your membership package or just send a check to the Temple Office. \$25 for the year. \$43 for chai.

Sunday, September 7 11:00 am – Book Sisters

“Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison” by Piper Kerman. Potluck brunch at my home in Walnut Creek. No dietary restrictions. RSVP to me - Raynaravitz@gmail.com

Sunday, September 14 11:30 am – CJM

Project Mah Jongg Exhibit

We have reservations to play Mah Jongg as part of the exhibit. Janet Goodman and I are looking for other players to join us at the museum. There will be an opportunity to tour the exhibit and the roots of American Mah Jongg. An expert will be available from 1:30-3:30 to tell you the value of your set if you think you have a valuable (eg. Ivory) set. Admittance to museum (\$12) or membership is required Please RSVP to me.

Sunday, October 12 9:45 am – Sisterhood Membership Brunch at CBT

Come and meet Rabbi Gutterman if you haven’t yet! This is our one “official” meeting for the year where we discuss things we want to do. Plus we have a catered brunch and lots of time to meet other members. Bring books that you want to recycle to others and find interesting books. Bring ideas of things you would like us to do as a group. Some ideas that have come up so far: Shirley Weiner has volunteered to teach us to make necklaces from T-shirts; trip, no-sew blankets; Game night with Men of CBT. Free to all Sisterhood members and new CBT members.

Tuesday, October 21 6:30pm – Book Sisters

“Life After Life” by Kate Atkinson

We will be meeting at Karin Lapin’s in Walnut Creek, dinner TBD. RSVP: Kar810@aol.com

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We approach Rosh Hashanah with excitement and glad hearts, even as we prepare for the accounting of the soul that Yom Kippur asks of us so soon after. The call of the shofar, and its broken notes in particular, remind us again – as Rabbi Menachem Mendel taught – that there is actually great strength and resilience to be found in our vulnerabilities. They are what we have in common, what binds us together as one year follows the next. As we come to understand that change and growth are a process to be charted over time, we discover that the wholeness for which we strive may be closer at hand than we thought.

THE HIGH HOLIDAYS: SPIRITUAL REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

If you ever experienced a High Holiday service or two... or many more... and silently wondered if you were the only one not fully comprehending all that was going on, then these sessions are for you!

Rabbi Gutterman is pleased to offer three opportunities to learn more about various aspects of these services, its accompanying Torah and Haftarah readings, and the deeper meanings attached to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur that enrich us all. All are warmly encouraged to attend any one, two or all three sessions. No prior study required!

Tuesday September 9, 7:30 - 8:30pm. A look at our High Holiday Torah and Haftarah readings... why these words on these days, and what messages to they hold?

Sunday September 14, 11:00 am – noon. Special links between High Holiday liturgy and music. This hour will be taught by Cantor Chabon and Rabbi Gutterman.

Saturday September 20, 7:30 - 8:30pm. Our final meeting will take place preceding Selichot services, and will be a chance to take a deeper look at themes of *teshuvah*, renewal and change. At 8:30 we will move into dessert and Havdallah, with Selichot to follow.

Reflections...

(continued from page 1)

“The Days Between:”

Opening the Heart

At the year’s turn,
in the days between,

we step away
from what we know

into the spaces
we cannot yet name.

Slowly the edges
begin to yield,

the hard places
soften,

the gate to forgiveness
opens.



Can you read this?
That means you can help a child
who can't.



In just one hour a week you can help a student learn to love reading. Take part in this rewarding *tikkun olam* program and help repair the world. Join the **Jewish Coalition for Literacy** as a volunteer reading tutor and make a difference in a child's life.

Register for a free tutor training workshop at

www.jclread.org

or by calling the number below:

Please note: fingerprinting is required by some school districts, which involves a fee—
more information will be provided at the training session.

East Bay: 510-809-4904

Wednesday, September 17, 1:00pm-4:00pm
at Congregation B'nai Tikvah,
25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek

JCL is an independently-funded joint project of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Jewish Community Federation, managed by JCRC.

Congregation B'nai Tikvah High Holyday Schedule 2014 / 5775

SELICHOT – Saturday, September 20

8:30 p.m. Dessert

9:30 p.m. Havdallah & Selichot Service

EREV ROSH HASHANAH – Wednesday, September 24

8:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

ROSH HASHANAH – Thursday, September 25

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, October 3

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

YOM KIPPUR – Saturday, October 4

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 Judy Blum in the Temple Office for details.

LEARN TO READ HEBREW

Congregation B'nai Tikvah is proud to join with the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) in their Hebrew Literacy campaign. This is NJOP's continent-wide campaign to win back the hearts of North American Jews. NJOP invites tens of thousands of Jewish adults into synagogues and Jewish centers throughout the United States and Canada to foster Jewish identity and create awareness about the importance of Hebrew literacy. The Cost is FREE!

Please join Janet Brandess in our CBT library on five consecutive Sunday afternoons from 1 - 2:30pm beginning October 26th. If you are interested in learning to read Hebrew, or if you have any questions, please email Phil Paris at Phil-ip.paris@ymail.com.

For more information about NJOP go to <http://njop.org>.

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of David Albert Negrin
Alison Negrin and Kevin Barnett

In memory of Irving Assael
Marilyn Assael

In memory of Irving Fogel
Yonina and Barry Bushell

In memory of Guy Christian
Joni and Mal Vineberg

In memory of Phyllis Sirota Lutzker

In memory of Herman Sirota
Ann and Stuart Lutzker

In memory of Martin Winslow
Beverly and Phillip Winslow

In memory of Dorothy Tobias
Carol and Allan Tobias

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Carol Gunter
Bert Gunter

With gratitude to Rabbi Gutterman
Doris and Dr. Jules Cohen and Family

In honor of Mary Okocha's conversion
Anna and Walter Gewing

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With thanks to Cantor Chabon for my Bat Mitzvah training
Katherine Berger

RABBI ASHER EMERITUS FUND

In memory of Aiden Thenemann
Kathy and Steve Weiner

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Mary Margaret Viera

In memory of Chiune Sughara
Patricia Viera

JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Stephen Slavet
Andrea and Benjamin Slavet

In memory of Abraham Leventhal
Diane and Victor Leventhal

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Tim Teele
Jackie Chakoff

In memory of Satie Teitelman
Carol and Allen Teitelman

MORDOCH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In honor of Danielle and Zachary Robinson

In memory of Luna Nadjari
Zaffy and Denis Welch

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Bernice Dorin Bershad
Jana and Leonard Dorin

ROSE AND SAM USATIN MEMORIAL FUND

To support Cantor Chabon's new CD
Yonina and Barry Bushell
Cookie Svingos
Rayna and Richard Ravitz
Bonnie and Jeff Rackmil

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of Rayna Ravitz' birthday
Bonnie, Carol, Florence and Judy

In memory of Evelyn Moulton

In memory of Louis Dienst
Gloria Kemna

In memory of Edward Ravitz

In memory of Morris Bikoff
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

In memory of Nicole Bristow
Rayna and Richard Ravitz
Samantha Youngman

In Loving Memory

NICOLE BRISTOW

1989 — 2014

CBT Member 14 years
May her memory abide as a
perpetual blessing.

SEPTEMBER 2014 Elul 5774 - Tishri 5775

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labor Day Office Closed	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	7:15pm Midrasha - 8th Grade Orientation	7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm - 6:00pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm Pizza dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Ki Teitzei 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Hoffmeister
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am - 12:00pm Religious School - Opening Day 11:00am Book Sisters 1:00pm - 5:00pm Choir Retreat	6:00pm Executive Board meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:30pm - 8:30pm HHD class	7:15pm Midrasha - Opening Night	7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Ki Tavo 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Katey Melino
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am - 12:00pm Religious School 11:00am - 12:00pm HHD class	7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm - 9:00pm Midrasha BODM 7:00pm Social Action Comm Mtg	1:00pm - 4:00pm Jewish Coalition for Literacy 6:30pm - 8:00pm CBT Ed Committee Meeting 7:15pm Midrasha	7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm Shir Joy	Parashat Nitzavim- Vayelech 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Gardner 7:30pm - 8:30pm HHD class 8:30pm Selichot Dessert 9:30pm Havdallah & Selichot Service
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30am - 12:00pm Religious School 1:00pm - 5:00pm Choir Retreat	6:30pm General Board meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	Erev Rosh Hashana NO Midrasha	Rosh Hashana 5775 5:00pm - 6:00pm Tashlich	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Ha'Azinu Shabbat Shuva 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
28	29	30				
9:30am - 12:00pm Religious School	7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School				

Tot Shabbat's Back - Friday, September 5!

Tot Shabbat is a warm and friendly Shabbat experience with music, storytelling, and simple prayers for the littlest ones in our community.

Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm Pizza dinner 6 pm Family Shabbat 6:30 pm

Reservations for dinner needed by Wednesday, September 3.

\$10 adults / \$5 children (5- 12). Please send your check to the Temple Office. (Members can sign up on line.)

OCTOBER 2014 Elul - Cheshvan 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	Kol Nidre	Yom Kippur
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00am - 10:30am Sukkah building 9:30am - 12:00pm Religious School	7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 6:00pm - 9:00pm Restaurant Walk	Erev Sukkot NO Midrasha 10:00am Open Bridge 7:30pm The Story of the Jews	Sukkot	6:30pm Shabbat Service	9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan & Brunch
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am - 12:00pm Religious School 9:45am - 11:15am Sisterhood Membership Brunch	6:00pm Executive Board meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm CBT Ed Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	NO Midrasha 10:00am Open Bridge 5:30pm Pizza dinner 6:00pm Torah unrolling 6:30pm Simchat Torah service & Consecration		Simchat Torah 7:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Bereshit 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Peri Gould
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am Sukkah - take down 9:30am - 12:00pm Religious School 3:00pm - 4:00pm Jewish Book & Art Festival event		10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 6:30pm - 7:30pm Book Sisters	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha		6:30pm Wine & Cheese 7:30pm Shir Joy - Installation of Rabbi Gutterman	Parashat Noach 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Kyle Adelberg
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am - 12:00pm Religious School 1:00pm NJOP 7:30pm 2016 B'nai Mitzvah parents meeting	6:30pm General Board meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm - 9:00pm Midrasha BODM	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha		6:30pm Shabbat Service	

Open Bridge to start at CBT!

Beginning October 1st, on Wednesday mornings, all bridge players are invited to join the new CBT Open Bridge group at 10 AM in our social hall. You may come with a partner or by yourself. The only requirement is your willingness to play along with some beginning bridge players who have been learning to play bridge for the first time this summer. They are anxious to learn from more experienced players - who themselves were once very much in need of guidance at the bridge table. Each morning you can expect to sit with one other bridge team (instead of shuffling from table to table, not getting to know anybody).

Hopefully Open Bridge will continue on Wednesday mornings indefinitely - check the CBT calendar to confirm. No charge to play but please RSVP Philip.paris@gmail.com or email w/questions.

Congrats to
TEAM TIKVAH
for another
Great year!!

(Top L-R) Dave
Adelberg, Eric
Cohen, Bruce Mey-
ers, Ian Oliver,
Brian Roberson,
Dan Levy.
(Bottom L-R) Steve
Rabinowitz, Adam
Epstein, Jim
Blachman, Ken
Fried.



I am delighted to be starting the 2014-15 year. This year our Grand Opening Night happens on Wednesday, September 3rd! The evening will include all the normal Opening Night fun – donuts (of course!), friends, photo booth, and some really big surprises. All Jewish teens in our community are invited to join for all of September – the 3rd, 10th and 17th – to check out Midrasha, try out the electives and hang out with friends!

When families are ready to enroll/register for the 2014-15 year at Contra Costa Midrasha, please go directly to our online enrollment at <http://shop.ccmidrasha.com>.

This month we have a lot of news to share with you. First of all, we are excited to announce our new home, Congregation B'nai Tikvah! This is now the location of our office and Wednesday night programming. Why is September 3rd's Opening Night a "Grand (Re-)Opening?" It's still the same Midrasha – with the same great education staff, programming (we still meet on Wednesday nights from 7:15-9:15pm), retreats and donuts – but at a new site. The facility provides more flexible space for CCM's projected growth. I am excited to introduce everyone to our new space!

We are so grateful to our partners at Congregation B'nai Shalom who housed Contra Costa Midrasha since its beginning. CCM's legacy will be forever indebted to their generosity. In fact, CCM was created by a shared vision from Rabbi Gordon Freeman of B'nai Shalom and Rabbi Raphael Asher of B'nai Tikvah. Today, we appreciate the support of all three partner synagogues – Beth Chaim, B'nai Shalom and B'nai Tikvah. We look forward to continuing our partnership with them into the future. Secondly, Contra Costa Midrasha is taking the lead this year to re-launch the SF Bay Area community Israel trip! In partnership with NFTY in Israel and all four Midrasha campuses, we aim to send a full bus of Midrasha teens to Israel next summer, 2015. We have faith that the current conflict will be resolved soon, so that we can safely send our community's teens to Israel – giving them a first-hand experience of Israel.

To learn more about our move, the summer 2015 Israel trip or about Contra Costa Midrasha's update curriculum programs, any and all current and past parents, community members, donors, alumni and others are invited to join us on Sept. 10, 2014 at 7:15pm for a "Parent Orientation and State of Midrasha" meeting. We will meet at our new campus, CBT. The evening will also include plenty of schmooze time, snacks and an educational session to give you a taste of the learning that happens at Midrasha on Wednesday evenings.

Lastly, please save the date - February 28, 2015 - for CCM's Annual Fundraiser Event.

For more information about Contra Costa Midrasha's 2014-15 year, visit our website at www.ccmidrasha.com, or contact us at office@ccmidrasha.com or 925/944-4701.

UNDER ONE TENT

Contra Costa Jewish Book & ARTS Festival 2014-2015



Join us for a stupendous line-up of authors, comedians, musicians, performers, scholars and speakers on a wide-array of engaging topics. You won't want to miss our September 2014 through January 2015 events! For a complete line-up: jfed.org/underonetent or call 510.809.4953 for a brochure.

Sponsors: Beth Chaim Congregation, Chabad of Contra Costa, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Congregation B'nai Tikvah, Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Diablo Valley Hadassah, Lehrhaus Judaica, Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living, Temple Isaiah.

Join
Contra Costa
Midrasha
on
Wednesday,
September 3
for the
**GRAND
(RE-) OPENING**
of our 2014-15 year
at our NEW HOME at
B'nai Tikvah
in Walnut Creek
Register online today at
shop.ccmidrasha.com
or call
925.944.4701

Thank G-d
It's ~~Friday!~~
Wednesday!

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involved you are about what your child is doing the more likely they will be to retain the information learned. Do not let the **Tohu Va'vohu** of Jewish knowledge take hold and create for your children a spark of light that will carry them on their life-long Jewish journey.

Shanah Tovah!!

President's Message.....

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other and across faiths. So many secular Israelis, disenfranchised from ultra orthodoxy, are finding a way to worship that works for them and they look towards us for guidance and especially support. My mention of our interfaith congregation was welcomed.

Finally, what it all comes down to is our congregation - our community. This, to me, is what we are about. It's about celebrating Judaism together in a way that is open and affirming, accessible to all who want it and we are a group that keeps that legacy alive, together. I am proud to be part of CBT, and as President, I hope I can do more to keep our community strong, supportive, vibrant.

**GO WHERE YOUR HEART TAKES YOU!
April 19-28, 2015 Community Trip to Israel**

- Design your own experience and discover Israel your way!
- Five customized excursions each day: Historic Israel, Social Action/Geopolitical, Arts & Culture, Green & Hi-Tech, Jewish Learning.
- Optional pre-trip to Poland April 14-20.
- Subsidies available.

Learn More: 510.809.4953 or israel2015@jfed.org.



By Tina Guterman, Chair

Backpacks for Vestia: We are currently collecting school backpacks and supplies to be donated to Vestia which provides supplemental support to **many** Contra Costa County children and families in significant need. Most useful are filled backpacks (no blue or red backpacks please because of gang affiliation) with supplies, such as pencils, pens, high-lighters, three ring binder, spiral notebooks, binder paper, etc. There is a complete list of needed supplies in the CBT lobby. Any and all supplies are greatly appreciated. Bins for donations will remain in the lobby through mid-September.

Upcoming Clothing Drive: We will be collecting warm coats this winter starting in November, so if you are doing any summer closet cleaning, please set them aside if possible. Thanks!

Around our Community....

Help Rescue and Deliver Food through White Pony Express: The White Pony Express is a quickly growing organization in our interfaith community that *rescues* food (as opposed to just collecting donations) and delivers it to recipients in need. There is a bank of donors (restaurants, bakeries, grocery stores) who find that they have surplus *freshly prepared* meals which they will simply have to throw away; but, with White Pony Express, the food donor calls a hot line where there is a dispatcher (24/7) to answer calls, and *within one hour, a runner appears with instructions as to where to take the food where it can be best used* (elder home, lunch program, battered women's shelter, etc.). If you would like to find out more or get involved, their website is: <http://whiteponyexpress.org/> and/or feel free to call their coordinator Vince Karakashian at (925)876-0402.

Next social action meeting is Tuesday September 16th at 7pm at CBT. For more information please email me at tguterman@aol.com.

Shalom Connection

Condolences to:

- Jodi Robinson and family on the loss of her daughter, Nicole Bristow
- Annette Cohn and family on the loss of her mother, Beatrice Sauve

Mazel Tov to:

- Diane and Vic Leventhal on the birth of granddaughter, Brendan Thomas Burke

Relay for Life Wrap Up

By Mike Cohn, Relay for Life Chair

Around 20 B'nai Tikvah members came out on Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27, to walk in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Martinez. This was the 14th year CBT has participated in the event, which benefits cancer research and prevention as well as programs supporting cancer patients.

The financial goal of this year's Martinez Relay for Life was to raise \$75,000, and Team Tikvah's goal was \$6,600. Both of those amounts were exceeded. The event raised \$75,689 and Team Tikvah a phenomenal \$9,551! We're not the largest of the 25 teams out there, but we certainly have a big impact.

Thanks to everyone who supported us with donations, by coming to our fundraising dinner at Rocco's, by coming out to cheer us on at the track, or just by sending your good wishes.

In addition to our great fundraising total, Team Tikvah had these accomplishments over the Relay weekend:

- We had least one team member walking the track for at least 19 of the relay's 24 hours. Next year, we hope to make it 24 of 24. (Insomniacs – come on out and walk in the wee hours of the morning.)
- We took home first place in the toilet paper mummy-wrapping contest.
- We now have in our congregation the proud holder of the 2014 Ms. Relay title! Our own Ms. Shuley Temple collected almost \$300 in mostly one dollar bills as she strutted her stuff for a couple of laps of the track. Shuley's magnetic personality and awesome dance moves just compelled folks to stuff money into her outfit. (see picture below)

As I said, thanks to all of you for your donations and support. But special thanks go to:

- Walt, Phil and Toni, our fundraisers extraordinaire, each of whom brought in over \$1,000 in donations;
- Amy, for getting all the merchandise donated for our raffle, silent auction and sale items;
- Bob, Neril, Annette and Kathy for helping organize and set up all of the above in our "Tikvah Marketplace";
- Tina for arranging for our caricaturist, Big Al Lopez;
- Toni for running the caricature booth for most of the two hours it was open;
- Annette for once again making her homemade granola for us to sell;
- Rabbi Gutterman and Michael Simons for stopping by on their way out of town to encourage the team;
- Cantor Chabon for again leading us in Havdalah service that even attracted members of other teams to join our circle of friends;
- Nicky for her great guacamole, and to everyone else who brought snacks, drinks and candy for all to share;
- Shuley, for a performance none of us will ever forget (or should share);
- Martha, for helping push Shuley over the top in her quest for the title;
- Bob, Amy, Nirel, Nicky, Phil & Toni for helping with setting up or taking down the team site;
- And all of those not named above who came out to walk with us or join us for Havdalah: Art, Karen, Claire, Jordana, Marc, Judy and Monica.

We hope to see more congregants at next year's Relay for Life!



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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

**A Taste Of Walnut Creek 2014 - 17th Annual Restaurant Walk
"The Original Walking Tour of Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants"**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**This event is NOT
just for CBT
Members!
Bring your
family, friends,
coworkers.
Support this CBT
fundraiser!**

1ST TIME PARTICIPANTS!

Bombay Indian Restaurant (chicken tikka masala w/naan)
Cream (choice of 'regular' cookie)
Extreme Pizza (sample of gourmet Signature pizzas)
Mixed Grain (veggie jhap chae w/purple rice)
The Candy Counter (choice caramel apple pop or Jelly Belly sample)

RETURNING FAVORITES!

1515 Restaurant Lounge (fried fish appetizer)
Buckhorn Grill (tri-tip sandwich and roadhouse salad) **Coco Swirl** (frozen yogurt)
Crepes Ooh La La (nutella crepes)
Home of Chicken & Waffles (drumettes / mac and cheese / waffles)
Hubcaps (chocolate shake) **Lottie's Creamery** (gourmet mini-floats) **Opa!** (Mini Spanakopita)
The Original Mel's Diner (Mel's garlic fries)
Peet's Coffee and Tea (featured coffee, red rooibos blend tea)
Pomegranate Restaurant (Pomegranate chicken and hummus)
Pyramid Alehouse (tastes of award winning craft beer)
Salvatore Ristorante (penne tricolore)
San Francisco Creamery Co. (one junior scoop of ice cream for take out)
Silk Road Mediterranean Cuisine (pomegranate chicken & hummus) **Skipolini's Pizza** (pizza slices)
Tomatina (garlic rolls and Bolognese)
Vitality Bowls (mini Acai bowl) **Walnut Creek Yacht Club** (fresh fish cocktail)

*list as of
print date

TICKET BOOKS ARE \$30 EACH and will be available by September 7.

Order yours through the Members' Only section of our website, pick them up weekdays in the Temple Office
on Sunday mornings during school or send a check to the Temple. Please include \$.75 postage per book.