
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 33 Iss. 11

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

Summer 2014

Shalom, B'nai Tikvah!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



I've been waiting many months to write these words. Since my very first conversation with our synagogue's Rabbi Search Committee, to my first visit and opportunity to get to know members, to our dynamic Town Hall Meeting and Congregational Vote in March, I've been inspired by the warmth, inclusivity and enthusiasm of this community. It's an honor and a privilege to be your new rabbi.

As one of our Bat Mitzvah students reflected, our summer Torah readings find the Israelites on the border of the wilderness and the land promised to them, toward which they have been travelling for so long. This student finds herself on a border of her own, as her family prepares to relocate. In a very real sense, we are all on borders of one kind or another, as we search out meaningful destinations and navigate change along the way.

I want to express my appreciation to Rabbi Asher, Cantor Chabon, Phil Hankin, Judy Blum, Harry Wittenberg and B'nai Tikvah's Board, and the Search Committee for bringing me here, and for all you have done and continue to do to welcome me and my husband, Michael. Thanks to you, we are already feeling very much at home, both at Tikvah and here on the left coast!

And now, I am very much looking forward to meeting those of you I haven't met yet, and continuing to getting to know those of you I have met. There will be various opportunities in the fall and throughout this first year to do just that, in smaller and larger group settings. In the meantime, join us for Shabbat services, or make an appointment to come by during the week and introduce

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Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



This is a very exciting time in the life of B'nai Tikvah, a time of transition and hope and vision for the future of our community. Rabbi Gutterman started as our rabbi on July 1st, and so begins the next chapter in the story of our synagogue.

One of the most famous quotes in the Mishnah comes from Pirkei Avot 1:6:
זכות לכף האדם כל את דן והוי חבר לך וקנה רב לך עשה

Aseh lecha rav: Make for yourself a Rav, and acquire for yourself a friend, and judge people according to their merits. This well-known quote is incredibly relevant to our community right now. What did the rabbis mean by "make FOR YOURSELF" a Rav, a teacher? Did they mean to suggest that we are each meant to have just one Rav in our lives? I don't think so. Neither did they mean to suggest that we should have only one friend. In fact, I think they meant just the opposite.

It is so understandable to get attached to one Rav, one rabbi, one teacher. We are all attached to Rabbi Asher and it is bittersweet to say goodbye to him. But if we look at the phrasing of the quote from Pirkei Avot, I think we'll find some great wisdom there. The rabbis didn't tell us to FIND for yourself a Rav. They said to MAKE for yourself a Rav. You can't just go out and find a rabbi and hope that that person will become your Rav. You have to find a rabbi, and MAKE him or her your Rav. The sages who wrote Pirkei Avot knew that each Rav has something unique and valuable to teach us, which is why they phrased the verse as they did.

Aseh l'cha rav. Rabbi Gutterman might not look or act like Rabbi Asher, but that's why it's OUR job to make her into our rabbi by trusting her and building a relationship with her. Only then can we learn all of the incredible things she has to teach us. "And acquire for yourself a friend". The same concept applies to the next part of the quote. In this time of transition, look around you at the beautiful community we've built here and lean on each other. Be *chaverim*, friends. Not just congregants, but friends. If

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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

Emma Vaccaro
Daughter of Antoanela and Scott Vaccaro
Saturday, July 26

Alden Friedman
Son of Kim and Ethan Friedman
Saturday, August 2

Juliette Benazra
Daughter of Caitlin and Simon Benazra
Saturday, August 9

Carly Johnson
Daughter of Jenny Wodinsky and
Martin Johnson
Saturday, August 16

Grace Benhamou
Daughter of Chanel and Tracy Benhamou
Saturday, August 23

Jared Rubin
Son of Marcy and Steve Rubin
Saturday, August 30

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

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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

Judith Barrall	Bob Canter
Alan Gould	Sandy Gross
Tina Guterman	Bob Grossman
Amy Lichtenstein	Idelle Lipman
Bruce Meyers	Rayna Ravitz
Mary Ann Wittenberg	Todd Young

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



Bittersweet is the word that comes to mind to me about the past couple of weeks. If anyone reading this came to Rabbi Asher's last Friday night service, that word is appropriate. His last sermon spoke of reminiscence, pride, and the road ahead. Marc Usatin gave a heartfelt tribute to his spiritual mentor and dear friend. And I bade him "happy trails" (making reference that it was not his "Last Train To Clarksville" - by one of his favorite bands.) I could tell Rabbi Asher was happy and really looking forward to a restful and productive retirement. I felt good about his new journeys, and I know so does he. We should all be so lucky to retire content with lots of opportunities ahead of us. As my mother would say "Zol zein mit mazel" - all the best. We'll see him down the road as our Rabbi Emeritus.

And then, a week later, I went to the first service with Rabbi Gutterman attending. What a switch of emotion. Though Cantor Chabon presided over the service, Rabbi Gutterman gave a most beautiful sermon that reflected on her journey driving cross country and arriving with such anticipation and joy. Wow, we've arrived at the point in time we've all been both a little nervous and a little expectant of. It was as if I could see the future with both Rabbi Gutterman and Cantor Chabon on the bima. How appropriate it happened during the summer where nature is growing, maturing, and being so fruitful. We planted in the spring and now we are in full bloom in the summer - just the way Adonai wants it to happen.

So speaking of transition, what's up with that? Well, quite a bit. The Transition Committee has been working with Rabbi Gutterman to help ease her into our community. They are planning small group visits, another Town Hall, and visits to local places she and her husband Michael will need to settle in. She has visited John Muir Hospital with Rabbi Asher, she'll be going to The Reutlinger with Marc Usatin, and is starting to meet with others in our extended community. If you would like to help Rabbi Gutterman with her transition through visits, please write to Mary Ann Wittenberg at mawittenb@comcast.net. She would love your involvement.

And to top it all off, CBT just finished an agreement with Contra Costa Midrasha and is bringing the teen program to our temple! It made a lot of sense since the majority of students attending the CCM program are from B'nai Tikvah. How wonderful it will be to host the school in our temple classrooms and hopefully introducing CBT to new parents.

This will be a lively year for us - so many new things going on. How can one not kvell at our naches (blessings and good fortune)?

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Turn It, Turn It

By Phil Hankin, Religious School Director



"Blast the shofar...strum the strings...toot the flutes...clang the cymbals...beat the drums..."(Psalm 150)

Happy Summer to everyone. As I have now returned from my summer travels (2 weeks at URJ Camp Newman, family vacation), I am using the next month to continue reflecting on the year that was and gearing up for the school year to come. Many exciting programs took place that enhanced the quality of our educational offerings this past year, including:

- ✧ *Sunday morning t'fillah where parents continued to participate alongside their children.*
- ✧ *Festive all-school programs, including the annual Hanukah Zimriah and Pesach Seder, were a continued hit.*
- ✧ *Family education programs, including the Fourth Grade Kabbalat Torah program, fostered communal inter-generational learning.*
- ✧ *The partnership between URJ Camp Newman and CBT allowed our 4th-6th grade students the opportunity to learn and enjoy the outdoors in Santa Rosa at the Fall Kallah in November.*
- ✧ *Continued creative learning through art, movement, projects, music, and games.*
- ✧ *Our annual Mitzvah Day for the entire synagogue is a partnership between our 7th grade class and the Social Action Committee.*
- ✧ *The Day of Learning was an opportunity to have families learn together from our wonderfully talented teaching staff. Each teacher offered a class on a topic they were passionate about and it was open to all members of the synagogue.*

We never rest on the laurels of our past accomplishments, however, because out of every great accomplishment comes new understanding of how success came about. It is these learning opportunities, coupled with our strong commitment to provide quality Jewish education, which drives me to harness the best from each moment. Also, the discussions I have had with many of you, along with my own evaluation and observations, lead to new ideas and new ways of thinking about structure and content of the Religious School program. Innovation remains foremost in the minds of our Education Committee and me as we prepare for our fall academic year. With innovation comes change.

I am very excited about our next year's teaching staff. Many of our teachers are returning, coupled with some new additions to the team. The teaching staff looks as follows:

- ✧ **Kindergarten – Julie Rubenstein**
- ✧ **1st Grade – Mor Perez**
- ✧ **2nd Grade – Gabrielle Jones**

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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.

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 house. No dietary restrictions. RSVP: Raynaravitz@gmail.com

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

Come and meet Rabbi Gutterman!

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 books that might interest you. 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 to CJM for Mah Jongg exhibit; 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, dinner TBD. RSVP: Kar810@aol.com

Books recommended by Book Sisters:

“My Mother’s Wars” by Lillian Faderman

“What we Talk about When We Talk About Anne Frank” by Nathan Englander

“The Golem and the Jinni” by Helen Wecker

“A Guide for the Perplexed” by Dara Horn

“Steve Jobs” by Walter Isaacson

“And the Mountains Echoed” by Khalid Houssini

“The Goldfinch” by Donna Tartt

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yourself. If this is something you’d rather do outside of the office, you’re in luck! I plan to be at Peet’s Coffee in downtown Walnut Creek (1343 Locust Street) on Wednesdays in August (8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27) from 4:00-5:30pm. Drop by to share a beverage, and tell me more about your hopes for B’nai Tikvah as we cross this next border together.

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, October 7, 2014
6 - 9 pm

A Taste Of Walnut Creek 2014
17th Annual Restaurant Walk

The Original Walking Tour of
Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants

CALLING ALL SINGERS!!

The B'nai Tikvah choir invites you to join them as they rehearse for our upcoming High Holyday services.

Participating in the choir is a wonderful way to become involved in a smaller community within CBT.

If you love to sing and you've been considering joining the choir, now is the time! Instead of starting rehearsals in the middle of summer, they will begin Monday, August 25th and be held Mondays and Thursdays from 7 - 9 pm and have 2 Sunday afternoon retreats in September.

If you would love to sing, contact Cantor Chabon at cantorchabon@tikvah.org or 925.933.5397.

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

Our next two Schmeer and Schmooze events are scheduled for **everyone** to attend, so bring your friends and adult family members. Coffee and bagels will be served.

Sunday, July 20th - Schmeer and Schmooze 10am
Topic: Treatment of Opiate Addiction with Dr. Phil Paris.
Phil Paris will review his many years of treating opiate addiction. Phil is the former Medical Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital Narcotic Rehabilitation Center in New York City.

Sunday, August 17th - Schmeer and Schmooze 10am
Topic: Anti Aging with Dr. Bruce Presnick
Bruce Presnick will focus on one of his favorite subjects, preventing the disabilities of aging. Bruce and his wife, Laura, have a highly successful chiropractic office in Pleasant Hill where they specialize in anti-aging strategies.

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. There are **7** left and going quick. First come, first serve.

Thursday, August 21st - Poker Night 7pm

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



Recent B'nai Mitzvah at Craneway retirement event.

As a young physician I was asked to work part time in a narcotic treatment center. I was more than a little nervous, unsure of my safety and unsure of any success in treating opiate addiction. But I was wrong, very wrong. While the patients had almost all been involved in some type of criminal behavior, in the clinic they turned to be a bright and caring group. Best of all, through the efforts of Drs. Vincent Dole and Marie Nyswander a treatment for opiate addiction was proving a huge success. They found an inexpensive medication to be taken just once a day that would allow addicted patients to feel normal and to continue feeling normal - as long as they continued to take their medication. Unfortunately for them, that medication was also in the class of opiates which led them and their families to assume they were still addicts. That this was not so is the subject of a discussion to be held on Sunday, July 20th at 10 am in the B'nai Tikvah social hall as part of the Men of CBT Schmeer and Schmooze. Hoping that you get the chance to read this prior to our meeting, but if not feel free to send me any questions you have about the origins and treatment of opiate addiction. Email: philip.paris@ymail.com



JCL
JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY



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 JCRF.

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Velly Malkov
In memory of Mehail Malkov
In memory of Lev Malkov
Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy
In honor of the B'not Mitzvah Sisters
Rayna and Richard Ravitz
Idelle Lipman
In memory of Ilse Schoenholz
Debbie and Michael Schoenholz
In memory of Mel Miller
Julie and Robert Miller
In memory of Byron Lewis
Sue and John Lewis
In memory of Julia Blumberg
In memory of Janet Trepper
Alvin Trepper
In memory of Irving Canter
Allyson and Michael Lachman
In memory of Joseph Pelen
Kathryn and Neil Siegel
In memory of Morris Falk
Joyce and Harry Moebius
In memory of Hanita Klein
Susan and John Klein
In honor of Phyllis Ruderman's Bat Mitzvah
Cheryl Kennedy and Family
In memory of Ruth Karmioli
Bonnie and Jeff Rackmil
In memory of Leon S. Milsner
Donna and Richard Milsner
In memory of Robert Landis
Debra Landis
In memory of Robert B. Tucker
Dale Tucker
In memory of Irving Assael
Melissa and Brian Assael
In memory of Mary Billy
Wendy and Dale Billy
Alvin Trepper
In memory of Rabbi Joel Dobin
Frances Dobin
In memory of August Gordon
Robin and Larry Gordon
In memory of Malcolm Vineberg, Sr.
Joni and Mal Vineberg

RABBI ASHER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Jennifer Packer
Karen Heller
In honor of Rabbi Asher's retirement
Connie Norwick
In honor of Matthew's Bar Mitzvah
Nora and Larry Zweigbaum

In honor of Rabbi Asher's retirement
Marcia and Harvey Maslin
In appreciation of Rabbi Asher
Jeanne and Tom Appelbaum
In memory of Rose Gross
Anna and Walter Gewing
In honor of Ryleigh's Bat Mitzvah
Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler
In honor of Abby Lapporte's Bat Mitzvah
Ruth Allen

RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With thanks to Rabbi Gutterman
Cathy Harris and Larry Broser
Suzanne and Michael Schmittman
Neal Levitt
Marjorie Searl
Temple Brith Kodesh's Torah study group

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Shevelin Fischer
Michael Fischer
In honor of Alison Negrin's Bat Mitzvah
Shirley Negrin
In honor Sandy and Karl Bemederfer's 50th Anniversary
Sharon Chabon and Robert Schoen
In honor of Ryleigh's Bat Mitzvah
Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Irving Canter
In memory of Fred Waterman
In celebration of Kathy Berger's Bat Mitzvah
Terri and Brent Waterman
Congratulations to the B'not Mitzvah women
Cookie Svingos
In memory of Irving Lerner
Nessa and Robert Wilk
In memory of Florence Reif
Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman
In honor of Lance Canter's retirement
Robin and Larry Gordon

JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Milton Eisenberg
Diane and Victor Leventhal

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Sam Goldenberg
Ruth and Larry Goldenberg
In honor of the B'not Mitzvah Sisters
Susan and John Klein

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JULY & AUGUST 2014 Tamuz - Elul 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20 10:00am - 11:00am Men of CBT Schmeer & Schmooze	21	22 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 1:00pm Bridge for Beginners	23 10:00am Bridge for Beginners	24 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	25 6:30pm Shabbat Service	26 Parashat Masei 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 9:00am - 9:00am Relay for Life! 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Emma Vaccaro
27 Relay for Life!	28	29 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 1:00pm Bridge for Beginners	30 10:00am Bridge for Beginners	31 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	1 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	2 2 Parashat Devarim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Alden Friedman
3	4 Erev Tish'a B'Av	5 Tish'a B'Av 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 1:00pm Bridge for Beginners	6 10:00am Bridge for Beginners	7	8 6:30pm Shabbat Service	9 Parashat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Juliette Benazra
10 10:00am Gan Shalom Cemetery meeting	11 6:00pm Executive Board meeting	12 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 1:00pm Bridge for Beginners	13 10:00am Bridge for Beginners	14	15 7:30pm Shir Joy	16 Parashat Eikev 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Carly Johnson
17 10:00am Men of CBT Schmeer & Schmooze	18 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	19 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 1:00pm Bridge for Beginners 7:00pm Jewish Heritage Night - As vs Mets	20 10:00am Bridge for Beginners 6:30pm - 8:00pm CBT Ed Committee Meeting	21 7:00pm Poker Night	22 6:30pm Shabbat Service	23 Parashat Re'eh 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Grace Benhamou
24	25 6:30pm General Board meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 1:00pm Bridge for Beginners	27 10:00am Bridge for Beginners	28 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30pm Shabbat Service	30 Parashat Shoftim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Jared Rubin

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		7:00pm - 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		7:00pm - 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	7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Social Action Comm Mtg	1:00pm - 4:00pm Jewish Coalition for Literacy 6:30pm - 8:00pm CBT Ed Committee Meeting	7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm Shir Joy	Parashat Nitzavim- Vayeilech 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Gardner 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	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	1	2	3	4
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		7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	Kol Nidre	Yom Kippur

Tot Shabbat is Back - Friday, September 5!

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

Watch your email for details on how to sign up for dinner.

Contributions.....

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ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Dora Cohen

Karen Nicles and Stacey Epstein-Corbett

MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Roza Gershkovich

Galina and Sasha Khalameyzer

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Hans Guterman

Tina Guterman and Douglas Polcin

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of Rabbi Asher's retirement

Kim and Brian Zagon

Barbara Johnston

In honor of Midori Antebi's Bat Mitzvah

The Glasky Family

RABBI JOSEPH ASHER LECTURE FUND

In memory of Heinz Fenichel

Barbara Fenichel

TREE OF LIFE - Leaves have been added

Bat Mitzvah

In loving memory

Kathy Berger

Janet Trepper

May 31, 2014

RABBI ASHER'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS

Joan and Dick Schwartz

Lisa and Howard Wenger

Anne and Walter Gewing

Bari Winchell

Sandra and Peter Golze

Michelle and Ted Hochstein

Paula Reinman and Sandy Gross

Lynette and Alan Scharlach

Frances Dobin

Paulette and Lewis Dauber

Miriam and Stanley Newman

Yonina and Barry Bushell

Judith and Charles Goldman

Juleen and Dan Lapporte

Carmel and Gregory Fenves

Abbey and David Cook

Zaffy and Denis Welch

Elaine and Tom Manno

Carol and Allan Tobias

Barbara and Harvey Samuels

David Weiner

Nancy and Rabbi Richard Litvak

Reflections...

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you don't feel as though you've built friendships in the community yet, then take the advice of the rabbis of the Mishnah.

"And acquire for yourself a friend". You must be as active in building friendships as you are in helping Rabbi Guterman to become our rabbi. It is the relationships between people that are the foundation of this community, and those relationships are more important than ever now.

"And judge people according to their merits." This part is particularly important because it is one of the things that makes B'nai Tikvah so special. We are a welcoming, warm community of people. We give each other the benefit of the doubt. We see the good in each other before anything else. Our reputation in Contra Costa County is that we are kind, *haimish*, a sweet synagogue. This quality is what has distinguished us as a community since our first days, and what will continue to bind us together as we move through this period of transition. I know already that we chose the right rabbi and that we are going to continue to shine moving forward.

Moving forward with a B'nai Tikvah Garden at Gan Shalom

A group of interested CBT members recently visited the new Jewish Cemetery, Gan Shalom, to get a first look at the proposed sections for our Congregation as there is an alternative to the one Gan Shalom originally recommended for CBT.

Further discussion is necessary before a final recommendation to the CBT Board be made on which of the two sections should be selected. Also at this meeting, we will review any of the "rules" followed by Gan Shalom for internment and recommend any modifications to the CBT Board as well.

We invite all interested members of B'nai Tikvah to attend a meeting
Sunday, August 10th at 10 am at CBT
to discuss the aforementioned topics and form recommendations.

RSVP to Nancy Solomon at
nsolo@comcast.net or Judy Blum at
judyblum@tikvah.org.

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- ✧ 3rd grade – Zvia Bitansky
- ✧ 4th Grade – Ellen Fasman
- ✧ 5th Grade – Aliza May
- ✧ 6th Grade – Julia Babka-Kurzrock
- ✧ 7th Grade (Sunday) – Bob Canter & Rabbi Gutterman
- ✧ 7th Grade (Tuesday) – Devra Aarons
- ✧ Art – Hagit Miller
- ✧ Music – Lisa Zeiler and Melanie Barrall
- ✧ Head Teacher for Tutorim Program – Alex Varona
- ✧ Special Education Teachers – Jennifer Fennell and Nirel Leitman
- ✧ Madrichim Coordinator – Arielle Restuch

I am also very grateful to Todd Young, who chaired the CBT Education Committee for the past 3 years. He and I worked very closely, along with the rest of the volunteers who make up the Ed Committee, to vision and implement fresh new programs in the school. As he steps aside, Leeaht Segev takes over and I look forward to fostering our partnership together.

Please keep in mind the following key dates:

- ✧ First day of class is **Sunday, September 7, 2014**. There will also be a parent orientation that morning, along with a special breakfast hosted by the Men of CBT.
- ✧ First mid-week class is **Tuesday, September 9, 2014**.
- ✧ The 4th-6th Grade Fall Kallah retreat weekend at Camp Newman is **November 7 - 9, 2014**. Like last year, 3rd graders are welcome to join us.

Enjoy an awesome rest of the Summer!! If you want to drop by and talk, my door is always open.

Shalom Connection

Mazel Tov to:

- Mary Okocha on her conversion
- Lynette Simmons on her conversion
- Carol and Ira Wallis on the birth of granddaughter, Eliza Charlotte Wallis
- Bonnie and Mark Tornheim on the marriage of Lisa to Sean Cunningham

Condolences to:

- Marla Gardner and family on the loss of her mother, Helen Resnick Powers
- Mery Chaney and family on the loss of her father, Bernard Shuer

Jews for Pride: Among hundreds of Jews walking down Market Street on June 29th for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Pride, CBT congregants participated in this festive occasion. Lisa Wenger did such a great job coordinating us as we joined together with others



from the URJ contingent. FYI, we were positioned right behind EJ (Magic Johnson's son who is a movie star in his own right on the E! channel), and therefore had the good fortune of lots of backdraft attention from all of the news reporters and TV crews who frequently stopped EJ to interview him. Next year, we plan to incorporate more CBT gear to identify our clan. Come join us!

Feeding Kids over the Summer: We are currently partnering with Shell Ridge Church to provide meal supplies for 40 families through the Monument Crisis Center. These are families whose children get most of their nutrition through school lunches during the academic year, which makes the summer-time n especially challenging time for them in terms of food security. As a pilot program, the goal was to raise \$2,800.00 for this 7 week period for the meals, and as of today, CBT and Shell Ridge have together raised \$3,096. Four volunteers (2 CBT & 2 Shell Ridge) are distributing the meal supplies on Thursdays. Thanks to all who are participating. We hope to expand this program in the future.

Welcome to our newest members...

- Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman & Michael Simons
- Karen Lapin

President's Message.....

(continued from page 3)

How often have we heard from the bima these words from the Book of Numbers: - "How lovely are thy tents, O Lord, how full thy portion." We have a lovely tent and our portions are full. And please come to services when you can and welcome Rabbi Gutterman.

My tribute to Rabbi Asher at services on June 27....

When Rayna told me I had three minutes to pay tribute to Rabbi Asher on his last Friday night service with our congregation, I had to look for inspiration. My first inspiration was food, but that didn't seem to fit. The next one was music and it fit perfectly. I started thinking about songs that had the word "Last" in it. I remembered quite a few, but three of them inspired me the most.

The first was Donna Summer's "Last Dance." It tells the tale of the last dance of the night. Though it might seem disappointing, it alludes to greater pleasures to come.

The next was The Band's "The Last Waltz." Though this was the group's last concert before they broke up, the upside was that many of the band members renewed themselves and launched their own successful careers.

And the final one was the Monkees – a band I'm sure Rabbi Asher is well familiar with. Their song "Last Train To Clarksville." It's about a boy who wants to see his girl one more time before moving on. It's a hopeful tune of not forgetting and returning some day.

And so, for Rabbi Asher, this last service is not goodbye – it's happy trails until we see you again as our Emeritus. Your contributions as a temple member, an advisor to Rabbi Gutterman, and continued friendship with so many means this isn't your last train to Clarksville, but a return next year from a month of journeys.

I've been honored to represent the temple during your last official year as clergy with us, and I look forward to running into you again.

Have a wonderful Summer!

The Adult B'nai Mitzvah class of 2014 -
(l-r) Jennifer Rosenberg, Phyllis Ruderman,
Kathy Berger, Alyce Rados, Nancy McIlroy,
Alison Negrin and Midori Antebi.

**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 the Temple Office for details.



Congregation B'nai Tikvah
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Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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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



9 am Saturday, July 26th to 9 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.