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# Tikvah Talk

Vol. 35 Iss. 1

Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
Walnut Creek, CA

September / October 2015

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*A New Year Blessing from  
Rabbi Gutterman and Cantor Chabon*



*"Opening the Heart"  
by Marcia Falk*

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At the year's turn  
in the days between

we step away  
from what we know

*wall and window  
roof and road*

into the spaces  
we cannot yet name

*cloud and sky  
cloud and wings*

Slowly the edges  
begin to yield

the hard places  
soften

*wind and clover  
road and river*

The gate to forgiveness  
opens.

We wish you a Shana Tovah, and look forward to being together for the year's turning very soon.

*May we all discover new paths of closeness to each other, and to our synagogue family.*

*May the New Year be one of promise and hope, of joy and peace.*

**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.

**Rebecca Gutterman, *Rabbi***  
**Jennie Chabon, *Cantor***  
**Raphael W. Asher, *Rabbi Emeritus***  
**Stephen Richards, *Cantor Emeritus***  
**Judy Blum, *Temple Administrator***  
**Jason Pollack & Leeaht Segev, *Interim***  
*Co - Directors of Education*

**Temple Office (925) 933-5397**  
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**Website: <http://www.tikvah.org>**

**CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

President	Dan Lapporte
Vice President	Glenn Gould
Vice President	Jared Goldin
Secretary	Julia Babka-Kurzrock
Treasurer	John Rubenfeld
Past President	Harry Wittenberg

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Judith Barrall	Michael Fischer
Alan Gould	Sandy Gross
Bob Grossman	Kelly Kaplan
Idelle Lipman	Bruce Meyers
Alison Negrin	Rayna Ravitz
Bonnie Tornheim	Mary Ann Wittenberg
Samantha Youngman	

*Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah*

Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Clauson  
 Daughter of Andy and Cathy Clauson  
 Saturday, September 5

Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Molina  
 Son of Pamela and Martin Molina  
 Saturday, October 3

Bat Mitzvah of Madison Weil  
 Daughter of Jeff Weil and Lisa Weil  
 Saturday, October 10

Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Corbett  
 Son of Stacey Epstein-Corbett and  
 Danny Corbett  
 Saturday, October 17

Bar Mitzvah of Adriel Friedler  
 Son of Anna and Mark Friedler  
 Saturday, October 24

Bar Mitzvah of Logan Dolnick  
 Son of Darcy and Brett Dolnick  
 Saturday, October 31

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

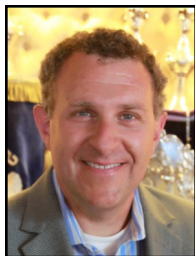
*Mazel tov to all our B'nai Mitzvah  
 and their families!*

*Tikvah Talk*

*Tikvah Talk* is published 6 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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please submit articles electronically, if possible, to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, at [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org) (subject *Tikvah Talk*) or by mail to 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, (925) 933-5397.

## President's Message

By Dan Lapporte



As the summer winds down and we get ready for the High Holydays, I'd like to reflect on an experience I've recently had during my morning commute into Oakland. I regularly see people at the 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART station asking for a handout. Some appear genuinely needy, some are obvious fakes and every once in a while someone

stands out. Enter Johnny.

I'm not sure if that's his real name or if he is really the disabled Navy Veteran he claims to be, but I saw him almost every day shouting, "You loved me in uniform, now help me get a cup of coffee." Maybe some of you have seen him too. I was struck by his persistence and one day pulled out a dollar bill, made eye contact and approached him. I handed him the dollar bill and was ready to move on, when he reached out his hand to shake mine and said, "thank you." I hesitated, and then shook his hand knowing that he was harmless. We struck up a conversation.

Despite his unshaven face, neck tattoos and hoodie, Johnny was well kept and pleasant. He showed me his very authentic looking military ID and told me that he was honorably discharged, but struggling with chronic pain from an injury he'd received in the military. We talked about the care he was receiving at the Veterans Administration and about his adult daughter who he hadn't seen in eight years. We had a real conversation. After about five minutes, I decided to head to work and we shook hands and again.

How does this relate to the High Holydays? It's about connection with another person who I might not have interacted with otherwise. It's about taking an informed risk and stepping out of my comfort zone. Most importantly, it's about trying something different since I normally don't think giving to people asking for money on the street is a good idea. As we enter the Days of Awe, we'll reflect on the year gone by and our life journeys. Among other things, I'll think about B'nai Tikvah and where we're going as a community. This is an important time to reflect, but it's also an important time to look forward and consider the opportunities we face. I look forward to seeing many of you through the High Holydays.

I still occasionally see Johnny at the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Station and give him a dollar when I do. Connecting and having a conversation can happen anywhere and often leads to unexpected outcomes. I invite those conversations with all of you – either face to face, over the phone or by e-mail if you prefer. You can reach me through an e-mail address we've created for your feedback: [BnaiTikvahPresident@gmail.com](mailto:BnaiTikvahPresident@gmail.com).

(continued on page 13)

## Religious School News

By Jason Pollack, Interim Co-Director of Education



### The Mighty Madrichim

Who can help struggling students learn to read and translate Hebrew? Who can take rambunctious students and get them back on task and to complete lessons successfully? Who comes to the teachers' aid when last minute copies need to be made and projects need to be set up?

Who are great role models for our young students? The Madrichim! That's who!

We have a great asset in our Religious School: the Madrichim program. This is the program that has students who have graduated from our Religious School come back to work for our school as teachers' aids, tutors, and, in some cases, classroom leaders and small group facilitators. I have had the joy during the month of August of meeting with most of our Madrichim in one-on-one interviews, as well as the excellent Madrichim supervisor, Arielle Restuch.

These young people of the Madrichim program are, even at their young ages, impressive. The CBT community should be very proud to have raised such fine individuals, such menches. They all are proud to be Jewish and be part of the Jewish community. They all derive great satisfaction from helping younger students learn more about Judaism, and take their position as being role models very seriously. Many Madrichim in their interviews said they became a Madrich/Madricha because of the older students that worked with *them* when they were growing up in the Religious School. "Madrich" means leader, guide in Hebrew—and that's just what they are.

This year, we will again have nearly 30 Madrichim, a large number considering the size of our community. They look forward to coming back to CBT on Sunday mornings, making Jewish education a part of their busy lives, and continuing to be active members of the CBT Religious School community. We are lucky to have them, and I personally look forward to working with them and getting to know them better this year.



Who's having more fun at Havdalah Happening?  
Our Madricha or attendee?

## Upcoming events!

Tuesday, September 15 - Book Sisters 7 pm CBT Social Hall  
"Love and Treasure" by Ayelet Waldman.  
Dessert only.

Sunday, October 4 - Sisterhood Membership Brunch 9:45 am  
CBT Social Hall

This is a catered event and open to all CBT Sisterhood and new CBT members - no charge. If you haven't joined yet, you can at the brunch. Bring your programming ideas for the coming year as this is our only meeting. We'll be looking for a charity to sponsor in the spring plus a speaker for our March Sisterhood Shabbat Service. Bring books you want to pass on and look for books you want to read. Come and meet new women, make new friends, renew old friendships.  
RSVP: Raynaravitz@gmail.com

Wednesday, October 14 - Under One Tent - 7 pm  
CBT Social Hall  
Ayelet Waldman author of "Love and Treasure"

Tuesday, November 17 - Book Sisters 6:30 pm  
"The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd

## Welcome to our Newest Members

Marlo and Kyle Johnston

Madeline 5/1/06 and Noah 11/14/12

## Welcome back

Barbara and Bob Felix

## 5776 High Holyday Schedule

### Saturday, September 5

8:30 p.m. Dessert and Havdalah

9:30 p.m. Selichot Service

### Sunday, September 13

8:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

### Monday, September 14

9:00 a.m. Children's Rosh Hashanah Service\*\*

10:30 a.m. Adult Rosh Hashanah Service

5:00 p.m. Tashlich (casting of sins) - Civic Park

### Tuesday, September 22

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

### Wednesday, September 23

9:00 a.m. Children's Yom Kippur Service\*\*  
(please note time change this year)

10:30 a.m. Morning 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

**Do you have unaffiliated friends who would like to join us for Children's Services?  
Have them contact the Temple Office for complimentary tickets!!**

**Tickets are required for all services.**



Our new High Holyday books are in!

If you would like your own copy (it's a 2 set edition), please send your check for \$50 for each set to the Temple Office or Members can pay on line through the Member's Only section of our website.

Books must be picked up from the Temple Office between now and September 4.

(They can be held in the office if you're coming for services.)

We regret we cannot bring 'sold copies' to High Holyday services.

For Qs, please call Judy Blum in the Temple Office.

Please note - in the spring we'll have an event to give our old Machzors a traditional Jewish burial. Save your books until then!

In addition to our amazing Religious School,  
Monthly Family Services and Tot Shabbats held on the first Friday of the month,  
we have three great programs for your under five year olds!

**ALL FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - TELL YOUR FRIENDS!**

**Gan Gani – Monthly Sunday drop off Pre-K Class 10am - noon**

Monthly Jewish Themes as highlighted below  
for children ages 4-5 - the year prior to Kindergarten.

*Registration required - contact School Director or Temple Office for a form.*

*Adult(s) do not attend.*

September 20<sup>th</sup> Sukkot

October 18<sup>th</sup> Life in a Synagogue

November 15<sup>th</sup> Shabbat

December 13<sup>th</sup> Hanukkah

January 24<sup>th</sup> Tu BiSh'vat

February 21<sup>st</sup> Torah

March 20<sup>th</sup> Purim

April 17<sup>th</sup> Passover

May 15<sup>th</sup> Israel and Yom Ha'Atzmaut



**K'Tan Tan – Monthly Sunday Family Playgroup 10am - noon**

Children up to five years old

*No registration required - adult(s) attend.*

Music, toys, art, snack, parachute, bubbles and more!

Same Monthly Jewish Themes as **Gan Gani** but with different activities.

October 4<sup>th</sup> Life in a Synagogue

November 1<sup>st</sup> Shabbat

December 6<sup>th</sup> Hanukkah

January 10<sup>th</sup> Tu BiSh'vat

February 7<sup>th</sup> Torah

March 6<sup>th</sup> Purim

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Passover

May 1<sup>st</sup> Israel and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

**Tikvah Tots – Weekly Friday Playgroup 10am to 11am**

Children up to three years old.

*No registration required - adult(s) attend.*

Informal and low key. Free play for little ones, chat time for adult(s), and circle time with Shabbat songs and blessings (and juice and challah of course) led by Rabbi Gutterman at the end!

Generally every Friday starting September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Check Temple calendar at [www.tikvah.org](http://www.tikvah.org) for exact dates.

**Our Holydays continue....**

Sukkot service Monday, September 28

8 am followed by brunch

Simchat Torah & Consecration Sunday, October 4

Torah unrolling begins at 6 pm. Service will be followed by Israeli dancing.

(dinner info on page 11)

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## Contributions

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### **GENERAL FUND**

In memory of Aiden Thenemann  
*Kathy and Steve Weiner*

In memory of Robert B. Tucker  
*Dale Tucker*

In memory of Seymour Solomon  
In memory of Irene Solomon  
In memory of Hattie Arnett  
*Nancy and Arthur Solomon*

In memory of Malcolm Vineberg, Sr.  
*Joni Vineberg*

In appreciation of Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
*Morlye Schweitzer*

In memory of Robert Landis  
*Debra Landis*

In memory of Phyllis Sirota Lutzker  
*Ann and Stuart Lutzker*

In memory of August Gordon  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*

In memory of Irving Assael  
*Melissa and Brian Assael*  
*Marilyn Assael*

In memory of Charles David Unger  
*Judith and Scott Barrall*

In honor of Dan Lapporte's Installation as President  
*Seymour Lapporte*

In memory of Abraham Leventhal  
*Diane and Victor Leventhal*

In memory of Irving Fogel  
*Yonina and Barry Bushell*

In memory of Guy Christian  
*Joni Vineberg*

In memory of Martin Winslow  
*Beverly and Phillip Winslow*

In memory of Max Sheldon  
*Christine and Murray Sheldon*

In memory of Janet Trepper  
*Alvin Trepper*  
*Robin and Jeff Brotman*

In memory of Dorothy Tobias  
*Carol and Allan Tobias*

In memory of Stephen Slavet  
*Andrea and Benjamin Slavet*

In memory of Beatrice Sauve  
*Annette and Michael Cohn*

In memory of Vivian Hankin  
*Dutchy and Jerry Hankin*

In memory of Mary Margaret Viera  
*Patricia Viera*

### **RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In memory of Charles David Unger  
*Judith and Scott Barrall*

In honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzvah  
*Julie and Alan Stokol*

### **CANTOR CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In memory of Charles David Unger  
*Judith and Scott Barrall*

In appreciation of Cantor Chabon  
*Yoni and Barry Bushell*

In memory of Susan Friedman's sister  
In memory of Jack Rackmil's father  
*Cookie Svingos*

In memory of Leo Dalton  
In memory of David Rost  
*Flo and Loren Burns*

In honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzvah  
*Julie and Alan Stokol*

In honor of the birth of our son, Nathan Eliezer  
*Yael and Yaniv Benaroya*

### **RABBI ASHER EMERITUS FUND**

In memory of Mal Vineberg  
*Susan and Joel Friedman*

In memory of Annette Kasson  
In memory of Sheldon Levine  
*Flo and Loren Burns*

### **CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND**

In memory of David Albert Negrin  
*Alison Negrin and Kevin Barnett*

In memory of Florence Reif  
*Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman*

In memory of Sarah Brown  
*Sharon and Ron Brown*

In honor of Harry Wittenberg's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
*Judy and Walt Blum*  
*Rayna and Richard Ravitz*  
*Leah Eskenazi*  
*Paula Reinman and Sandy Gross*

With thanks to Pat Viera  
*Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg*

In memory of Chiune Sughara  
*Patricia Viera*

In memory of Hannah Roth  
*Sharon and Ron Brown*

In memory of Jack Lerner  
In memory of Milton Wilk  
In memory of Rose Beard  
*Nessa and Robert Wilk*

In honor of The Chutzpah Chavurah  
*Donna and Arnie Hoffman*

In honor of the Installation of Dan Lapporte as CBT President  
*Chanel and Tracy Benhamou*

### **JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Milton Eisenberg  
*Diane and Victor Leventhal*

(continued on page 9)

## Team Tikvah – Team of Hope Members and Supporters

Thanks to everyone for making Team Tikvah's participation in this year's Martinez Relay for Life a stunning success. We set a lofty goal this year of raising \$9,600. We far surpassed that and, as of this writing, have raised \$11,567.53 for the American Cancer Society's cancer research, education and prevention programs.



We were the highest grossing team in the Martinez Relay, which so far has brought in a total of \$78,182.33. There is still time to meet the overall Martinez Relay goal of \$80,000 since the event remains open for donations through August 31. Donations to our team members can still be made through their personal pages and donations to our team can be made through the team webpage: Team Tikvah - Team of Hope 2015.

In addition to our great fundraising total, Team Tikvah can be proud that we received "Around the World" recognition for having at least one participant on the track during each of the 24 hours from 9:00 a.m. Saturday to 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

Only a few of the 28 teams in the event accomplished that. And you can also send your congratulations to Ms. Shuley Temple, who successfully defended her crown to become Ms. Relay 2015.

Will Shuley be back to attempt a three-peat in 2016? Only time will tell.

THANKS TO: our team members – Kathy Berger, Annette Cohn, Toni Dine, Ellen Fenichel, Al Gould, Bob Grossman, Bert Gunter and Roberta Davis, co-captain Tina Guterman, Martha Jensen, John and Susan Klein, Art Korn, Karen Lapin, Linda Meyers, Mike Weintraub, Phil and Nicky Weismehl, and Lisa Wenger.

THANKS TO: our supporters who came out to walk, schmooze, eat or celebrate Havdalah with us:

Kathy Baruch, Marc Berger, Jordana Green, Mason Grossman, Sandy Leon, Amy Lichtenstein (plus Noah), Bruce and Sam Meyers, Faith Micco, Deborah Sandler, Rich Sauve, Mel and Joan Weinstein, Fiona Weismehl and Emma Wenger.

THANKS TO: everyone who donated to our team members or directly to Team Tikvah- Team of Hope.

In addition, special thanks and recognition go to:

Martha Jensen for taking care of not only all of our phenomenal Tahitian decorations, but for obtaining and creating the wonderful gift baskets we raffled off at the event.

TO Nicky Weismehl for putting together the lavender sachets we sold, and for once again contributing a tub of her fabulous guacamole.

TO Mike Weintraub, who in his first year participating in the event was our top fundraiser, collecting over \$2,000 in donations.

TO Michael Fischer for the much-needed loan of a tent.

TO -Rocco Biale for again supporting our fundraising dinner at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria.

TO and, of course, Rabbi Gutterman and Cantor Chabon for leading us in a very special Havdalah ceremony.

If there's anyone I overlooked, my sincere apologies.

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After three years sharing the responsibility for captaining the team, Tina and I have decided to step aside and let some folks with fresh ideas and energy take over. We are glad to announce that the captains of next year's Team Tikvah – Team of Hope will be Martha Jensen, Amy Lichtenstein and Bob Grossman. Thanks to all three for taking this on.

I hope to see all of you again at next year's Relay for Life.

Mike Cohn, Relay Co-Chair



The Survivor Walk kicks off the 24 hour Relay.

For September we will be busy with the High Holydays moving stuff and helping where ever we can. Ushering is our most critical task so please let me know if you are interested in Ushering and assisting with our Shul's High Holyday events.

The month of October is busy! We will be having another Poker Night at CBT on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> with more information to come. On Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup> we'll have a Schmeer and Schmooze at 10 am in the Social Hall. And Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> will be our Men's Night Out at The Cheesecake Factory at 6 pm. Please RSVP if you can attend any or all of these events at [men.of.cbt@gmail.com](mailto:men.of.cbt@gmail.com).

If you have not yet sent in your Men of CBT Membership Dues, please do so! We appreciate your support!

*Our Mission:*

*The purpose of the Men of CBT is to engage male congregants, both in-faith and inter-faith alike, in building a community that enriches their experience at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. We do this by offering opportunities to learn, socialize, and serve our temple."*

**What ARE all the cars doing in the parking lot?**

If you ever stopped by CBT on a random weekday (except Tuesday when school is in session), there were very few cars in the parking lot. Small staff = few cars!  
That changed in August!

We are excited to let you know that  
**ACTIVE READING CENTER,**  
an afternoon reading program for struggling readers,  
has moved in and is renting space from us.

Their program involves one on one tutoring of children aged 5 and up. They've been around for over 25 years but the facility they were at before needed more space so they started a search and found us!

The only afternoon they have limited classroom use is on Tuesdays when our children are here.

Not only is it wonderful to have our building used when before it sat empty, but their staff and board members are a pleasure to work with! Some of our lives have even crossed paths before. And, of course, the rent they are paying is certainly helping our bottom line!

For more information about the program, visit  
<http://activereadingcenter.org>.



**UNDER ONE TENT**  
CONTRA COSTA JEWISH BOOK & ARTS FESTIVAL

**LOVE AND TREASURE**

Best-selling author Ayelet Waldman soars again with this Washington Post "Best Book of the Year" in which Lt. Jack Wiseman is tasked to guard a train filled with treasures stolen by the Nazis. His responsibility grows more complicated

when he meets Ilona, a fierce, beautiful Hungarian woman who has lost everything in the Holocaust.

Please join us here on

Wednesday, October 14 at 4pm.

Admission: \$5.00.



Ayelet Waldman is the author of *Love and Treasure*, *Red Hook Road* and The New York Times bestseller *Bad Mother: A Chronicle of Maternal Crimes, Minor Calamities and Occasional Moments of Grace*. Her novel *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* was adapted into a film called *The Other Woman* starring Natalie Portman. Her personal essays and profiles of such public figures as Hillary Clinton have been published in a wide variety of newspapers and magazines, including The New York Times, Vogue, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal. Her radio commentaries have appeared on All Things Considered and This American Life. Her books are published throughout the world, in countries as disparate as England and Thailand, the Netherlands and China, Russia and Israel, South Korea and Italy.

In loving memory

**FLO BURNS**  
6/26/1940 – 8/11/2015

CBT Member  
30 years



## Contributions.....

(continued from page 6)

### **CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND**

In memory of Tim Teele

*Jackie Chakoff*

In memory of Sadie Teitelman

*Carol and Allen Teitelman*

### **STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

In memory of Nicole Bristow

*Jodi and Steve Robinson*

In honor of Rachel Stokol's Bat Mitzvah

*Devra Aarons & Family*

### **MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND**

In honor of the wedding of Michael Stein and Allyson Milner

In memory of Leo Dalton

*Flo and Loren Burns*

In memory of Luna Nadjari

*Zaffy and Denis Welch*

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND**

In memory of Jackie Raucher

*Mona Epstein*

### **HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND**

In memory of Nicole Bristow

In memory of Evelyn Moulton

In memory of Louis Dienst

*Gloria Kemna*

In memory of Morris Bikoff

*Rayna and Richard Ravitz*

In honor of Harry Wittenberg's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

*Judith Signorelli*

### *Shalom Connection*

#### *Condolences to:*

Loren Burns and family on the loss of his wife, Flo  
Brian Zagon and family on the loss of his grandmother,  
Geraldine Berres

#### *Mazel Tov to:*

Yaniv and Yael Benaroya on the birth of their son,  
Nathan Eliezer  
Martha and Neil Strock on the birth of grandson,  
Jackson Robert Strock (to Nathaniel)  
Carol and Ira Wallis on the marriage of Jason and Jane Oliver

Have a simcha to share?  
Please let us know! Email [judyblum@tikvah.org](mailto:judyblum@tikvah.org).



**TIKVAH L'ATID**  
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Our Legacy Team is trying to reach out to each and every member to insure the future of Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

The process takes time.  
Please contact Lisa Wenger  
([lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com))  
or Sandy Gross ([sandyfgross@gmail.com](mailto:sandyfgross@gmail.com))  
if you want to be contacted in the very near future.

*We on the CBT Legacy Team -  
Rabbi Asher, Rabbi Gutterman, Lisa and Howard Wenger,  
Sandy Gross, Harry Wittenberg and Judy Blum -  
wish all of you the  
very best for a Sweet New Year.*

### **New Adult B'nai Mitzvah Course To Start after the High Holydays**

Did you celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at thirteen?

What did you learn from that experience if so...  
and what do you wish you had learned?  
Or if you didn't have one, how would you design  
one for yourself today?

We invite any adults intrigued by these questions to speak with us about our next two-year Adult B'nai Mitzvah course to start in October on Tuesday evenings. Together, we look forward to embarking on a path of Jewish learning which will culminate in a service celebrating adult Jewish learning and identity.

For more information or to sign up, please email Rabbi Gutterman at [rabbigutterman@tikvah.org](mailto:rabbigutterman@tikvah.org).

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Contra Costa Midrasha is SO excited to start a new year! Enrollment is now open. We invite all Jewish teens in the Beth Chaim community to join us for any of our September events including:

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation/Open House on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>

Fall Picnic is Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>

Opening Night Extravaganza on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>!

All events happen at CCM's home in Walnut Creek at B'nai Tikvah – 25 Hillcroft Way on Wednesday nights from 7:15 – 9:15pm.

A year ago, I declared a new goal for Contra Costa Midrasha: to renew a summer Israel trip so that our Midrasha teens can travel to Israel together. In July, 11 teens from CCM (along with three other teens from Oakland Midrasha – for a total of 14 Midrasha teens) boarded a plane to Tel Aviv and spent the month of July visiting every corner of Israel. They swam in Eilat, prayed at the Western Wall, became friends with Israeli teens, marveled at the beauty of the Sephardic synagogues in Tzfat, hiked from the Galilee to the Mediterranean, did three days of basic training with the IDF in “Gadna,” slept under a blanket of stars in the desert, ate falafel and schnitzel and hummus, got stung by jellyfish and had so many more adventures. In short they, in the words of one CCM teen, “had an incredible time, with life-long memories and many new friends – the best summer of my life!”

Of those 11 Contra Costa Midrasha teens, seven of them were from Congregation B'nai Tikvah – one of CCM's three partner synagogue. Zach Babka, Shayna Barrall, Aaron Benhamou, Ian Jones, Ryan Levy, Nicky Webster and Nieves Winslow all journeyed together. A few of the 11 teens recently shared stories with me of their adventures in Israel. Here are some of my favorite excerpts from their tales...

Ysabel Munoz shared her enthusiasm for her first moments there, “I think my [amazing] moment was when we were blindfolded in the bus, driving to Jerusalem. And then we get off [the bus] and we're all in a line, holding each other's shoulders, walking across streets. We get there and they count to three and we take off the blindfold, and it's everyone's first view of Jerusalem and it's like – it was such a moment. You can see the Kotel and it was just gorgeous and it hit me then. I was like oh my gosh, this is Israel, this is what I've been learning about all this time, and this is what we pray to when we are in Temple and now we're here and it was crazy.”

Aaron Benhamou and Ryan Levy told a story of their first hours at IDF basic training called, Gadna. “We had been at the Gadna base for just a few hours and the sirens go off. We all run under the tables [in the cafeteria]. And we ask our counselors, ‘is this a drill?’” And I look over under the table - a bunch of real soldiers are crying and calling their families. That made it so real. It was not a drill. Then the door was really heavy – every time it opened we thought it was a bomb going off – we're American kids, we don't know what a bomb sounds like. It turned out to be a false alarm, but in the moment we didn't know. Then when it was over, they were like, “okay welcome to Gadna.”

Jesse Rusk contributed this story: “Desert time was really cool too. Our guide Shai comes and brings us to this really flat plateau. And he tells us to go take some space – somewhere in this really big area - some people sit closer and some people sit really far away. And then in front of us you can see mountains and then Eilat, out in the distance. But I think at that moment a lot of people felt – that suddenly we could think, because before it was go, go, go. It was the beginning of the trip – there's a bunch of new things coming at us. It was this really nice moment to think, we're in Israel. That was a nice moment to think about everything, about the meaning of why we were there.”

All of the teens agreed that Shabbat was truly special on this trip in Israel saying, ““it was so nice having actual Shabbat, not needing to do anything. The rest of the week we were going nonstop, it was nice to have rest.”

For more information about Contra Costa Midrasha, visit us online at [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com) or call 925/944-4701. We look forward to sharing this new year with you!



# SEPTEMBER 2015 Elul 5775 - Tishri 5776

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	10:00am Open Bridge	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm - 6:30pm Pizza dinner - Prospective Members invited! 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Ki Tavo 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Clauson 8:30pm - 9:30pm Selichot dessert 9:30pm - 10:30pm Havdallah and Selichot service
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Labor Day (Office closed)	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 7:00pm Midrasha BOD meeting	10:00am Open Bridge 1:00pm - 4:00pm Jewish Coalition of Literacy 7:15pm Midrasha - 8th & 9th Grade Orientation	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Nitzavim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00pm Erev Rosh Hashanah	Rosh Hashanah 5:00pm Tashlikh	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters -	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha - Picnic!	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:15pm - 7:15pm Shabbat dinner 7:30pm Shir Joy - Donor Plaque Dedication	Parashat Vayeilech 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Religious School Begins! 10:00am - 12:00pm Gan Gani - Sukkot	5:30pm Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm General Board Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 8:00pm Kol Nidre service	NO Midrasha Yom Kippur	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Ha'Azinu 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
27	28	29	30			
Religious School 9:00am Sukkah building	(Office closed) Sukkot 8:00am - 10:00am Sukkot Service followed by brunch	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha Begins!			

## JOIN OUR CBT COMMUNITY FOR DINNER!

**Friday, September 4** Pizza dinner 6 pm  
Between our 5:30 Tot Shabbat & 6:30 Family Shabbat  
\$10 adults, \$5 children  
We invite prospective families to be our guests.  
Reservations due Wednesday, September 2

**Friday, September 18** Dinner at 6:30 pm.  
Shir Joy at 7:30. No need to decide where to eat!  
Kabob Burger is cooking for us.  
\$18 adults, \$8 children  
Reservations due Tuesday, September 16.

**Friday, October 2** Pizza dinner 6 pm  
Between our 5:30 Tot Shabbat & 6:30 Family Shabbat  
\$10 adults, \$5 children  
Reservations due Wednesday, September 30

**Sunday, October 4**  
Simchat Torah & Consecration  
Dinner 5:15 pm  
\$18 adults, \$8 children  
Torah unrolling begins at 6 pm  
Reservations due Thursday, October 1.

Send your check to the Temple Office. Members can sign up through the Members Only section of our website.

# OCTOBER 2015 Tishri - Cheshvan 5776

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm - 6:30pm Pizza dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Molina
					8	9
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Religious School 9:45am Sisterhood Membership Brunch 10:00am - 12:00pm K'Tantan - Life in a Synagogue 5:15pm - 6:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Simchat Torah & Consecration followed by Israeli dancing	(Office closed) Simchat Torah	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Midweek Religious School begins 6:00pm - 9:00pm Taste of Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	7:00pm Men of CBT Poker Night	10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Bereshit 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Madison Weil
					15	16
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Religious School	6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Education Committee 7:30pm - 8:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Midrasha BOD meeting	10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm Under One Tent - Ayelet Waldman here! 7:15pm Midrasha		10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 7:30pm Shir Joy - "Legacy" Shabbat	Parashat Noach 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Corbett
					22	23
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Religious School 10:00am - 12:00pm Gan Gani - Life in a Synagogue		10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha		10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Lech-Lecha 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Adriel Friedler
					29	30
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Religious School	5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	10:00am Open Bridge 6:30pm Men of CBT - Night Out 7:15pm Midrasha		10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:30pm Shabbat Service - Michael Eselun speaking	Parashat Vayera 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Logan Dolnick



Miss Shuley Temple (aka Bob Grossman) once again won the Miss Relay contest. Like father, like son?



Gathering after Havdalah at the Relay for Life.

## President's Message.....

(continued from page 3)

Finally, speaking of stepping out of the comfort zone, on Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup> I saw something I never thought I would: Our beloved Cantor Chabon singing the National Anthem at the Oakland Coliseum in front of about 20,000 people! (I checked, and the 2015 game average attendance for the A's is 21,794.) Jewish Heritage Night at the A's was inspiring and a number of local Synagogues were represented. Thanks to the tireless work of Julia Babka-Kurzrock, we sold 128 tickets. B'nai Tikvah was well represented and Cantor Chabon, quite literally, nailed the National Anthem. What a great community event. Thanks to everyone who came!



### *B'nai Tikvah Gift Shop*

Tallitot, Bags and Kippot  
 Mezuzot Yads Kiddush Cups  
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 Challah Boards Tzedaka Boxes Jewelry  
 Greeting Cards, Books  
 Spice Boxes and Havdalah Sets  
 SHOFARS and lots more!

The Gift Shop is open on Sundays  
 when Religious School is in session or  
 by appointment.  
 Please call Irene Korn at 925.673.9300.

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**Proceeds from the Gift Shop benefit  
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**Can you read this?**  
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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 [jclread.org](http://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 2, 2015, 1:00pm-4:00pm  
 Jewish Federation Office, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley

Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 1:00pm-4:00pm  
 Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek



### There's an APP for US!



Access our calendar, member directory  
 (log-in needed) and our website  
 quickly and easily.  
 Search for "CBT membership management."  
 (Membership Management is our  
 database software program.)

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CCJDS is a beneficiary of the Koret Foundation, Jim Joseph Foundation,  
and the Jewish Federation of the East Bay.

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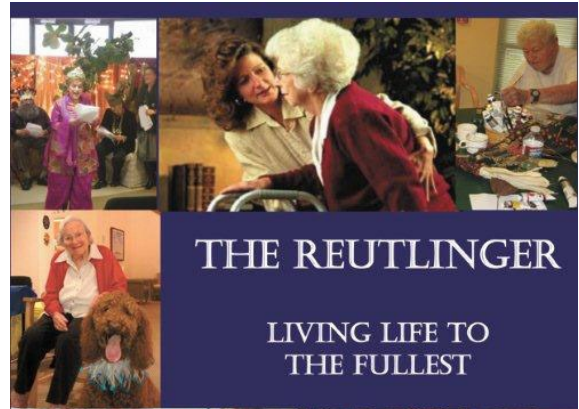
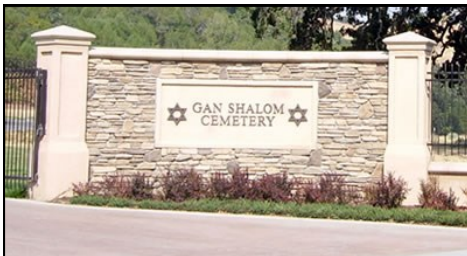


PREMIER PROPERTIES

## GAN SHALOM CEMETERY

The Board of Trustees of Congregation B'nai Tikvah has approved the establishment and the location of the B'nai Tikvah Garden at Gan Shalom Cemetery, 1100 Bear Creek Road, Briones.

For those who have purchased plots and those considering a "pre-need" purchase, please contact Jay Lewis, Managing Funeral Director at Sinai Memorial Chapel, 3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, at (925) 962-3636.



## THE REUTLINGER

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## EAST BAY CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

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The bin is in our lobby.  
Bring in gently used books for all age children.

<http://www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org/>



## Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box in our Lobby?

All donations received through the end of September will be sent to

**Shalom Bayit.**

Shalom Bayit is the Bay Area's center for domestic violence prevention and response within the Jewish community. Shalom Bayit promotes peaceful homes and families, teaches skills for healthy relationships, and works to build a safe, vibrant Jewish community that is



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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

**A Taste Of Walnut Creek 2015 - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Restaurant Walk  
"The Original Walking Tour of Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants"**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**1<sup>ST</sup> TIME PARTICIPANTS!**

**Main Street Kitchen** (MSK seasoned fries)  
**Veggie Grill** (sample of Quinoa Power Salad)

**RETURNING FAVORITES!**

**1515 Restaurant Lounge** (fried fish appetizer)  
**Buckhorn Grill** (tri-tip sandwich and roadhouse salad)  
**Cream** (choice of 'regular' cookie)  
**Crepes Ooh La La** (nutella crepes) **Extreme Pizza** (sample of gourmet Signature pizzas)  
**Home of Chicken & Waffles** (drumettes / mac and cheese / waffles)  
**Hubcaps** (vanilla shake) **Lottie's Creamery** (gourmet mini-floats) **Opa!** (spanakopita or domades)  
**The Original Mel's Diner** ( Mel's garlic fries)  
**Peet's Coffee and Tea** (featured coffee and seasonal drink)  
**Pomegranate Restaurant** (Pomegranate chicken and hummus)  
**Pyramid Alehouse** (tastes of award winning craft beer)  
**Salvatore Ristorante** (penne alla romana)  
**San Francisco Creamery Co.** ("take out" junior scoop of ice cream)  
**Silk Road Mediterranean Cuisine** (pomegranate chicken & hummus) **Skipolini's Pizza** (pizza slices)  
**The Candy Counter** (Jelly Belly sample) **Tomatina** (our delicious garlic rolls and meatballs)  
**Vitality Bowls** (mini Acai bowl) **Walnut Creek Yacht Club** (fish gazpacho)

**TICKET BOOKS ARE \$30 EACH** and will be available by September 8.

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. They can also be purchased on [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).