



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

January / February 2016

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 35 Iss. 3

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



The sage Rabbi Chanina ben Teradion taught that when two people study words of Torah, God's presence rests between them. In part, this suggests that Jewish tradition reveals its wisdom most compellingly when we explore it together. Our sages consistently studied in *chevruta*, or pairs, so that each might draw on

the strengths of the other. That dynamic is alive and well at B'nai Tikvah, anytime groups gather for Torah Study, Adult Learning, and Sunday morning Religious School. Walking through the halls on these mornings, in addition to the knowledge imparted by our remarkable teachers in their classrooms, you'll see pairs of our older and younger students in the hallways and library reviewing Hebrew language skills. Our teen tutors are significant role models for the kids in our younger grades, who in turn give their tutors a chance to keep their knowledge fresh and to take their place in the generational transmission of Jewish learning and values.

As another secular year begins, Congregation B'nai Tikvah is taking some exciting leaps in our Adult Education Program. We have a lay-led group in formation that will be studying *Mussar* together – a spiritual tradition that offers wisdom and guidance by encouraging us to pay attention to how our inner traits affect our lives. Also beginning in January, we are excited to introduce a three part series in partnership with Lehrhaus Judaica, a Bay Area center for Adult Jewish Studies. This series, called "All in the Jewish Family," will be an exploration of interfaith relationships, interfaith families, and the dynamics of both within the life of our synagogue. Join Dawn Kepler, an expert teacher of these topics, **on Sunday January 31, February 28 and March 13 from 10:00-11:30 am**. If you can't attend all three, you can certainly come to one or two – each promises to be interactive and compelling. Classes are free to CBT members, \$5 for the public. Everyone is warmly invited to be part of All in the Jewish Family.

When this series concludes, we'll follow it in the best way possible: with more learning! Our second partnership with Lehrhaus will take place over six months beginning in March, and will focus on death and mourning in Jewish tradition. Details to come.

When two study words of Torah, God's presence rests between them. When we all learn together, a piece of who we are is indeed elevated. Join us, and help make B'nai Tikvah the best *Beit Midrash*, or house of study, that it can be. You're sure to learn something new – about the topic at hand, about your fellow members, about yourselves.

REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



There is so much music to look forward to in the coming months! I love that I get to write this article as we move into 2016. It seems to signal good things for our congregation if the year is starting with music and celebration. May it always be so!

On January 9th: Please join us for a fabulous evening of jazz and classical piano with **French Jewish musician Marina Pacowski**. I will be joining Marina on a few songs, along with Harry Wittenberg on bass. The evening begins at **7:30 in our Social Hall** and includes French wine and cheeses. It guarantees to be a beautiful way to start your new year!

On January 17th: I am thrilled that we are co-sponsoring a concert given by the **Nava Tehila ensemble from Jerusalem**. Many of you have heard me talk about this Renewal community in Israel and about the gorgeous music they are offering to the world. I have recorded several of their songs and we now use many of their melodies at our services. The concert will be on **Sunday, January 17th at 7:30 pm at Chochmat HaLev in Berkeley**. We are co-sponsoring the event with Urban Adamah, Chochmat HaLev, and Kehilla Community Synagogue. It will be an uplifting evening of music and prayer that you don't want to miss! Please see the flyers in our lobby and in this edition of Tikvah Talk. To purchase tickets, go to cochmat.org.



January 23rd is Shabbat Shira! Our tradition for the past few years has been to have musicians on the bima for the Shabbat morning service, and it has become a very beloved experience for all who attend. We'll have some sweet davening, hear the Song of the Sea chanted from the Torah, and follow with a festive oneg Shabbat in the social hall. I also plan to deliver a sermon in song, which is a funny, musical sermon about the history of Jewish music. **Please join us at 10 am on the 23rd**. It will be wonderful!

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.

CONTACT

Temple Office (925) 933-5397

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am - 5 pm

Fax (925) 933-6833 E-mail: office@tikvah.org

Website: <http://www.tikvah.org>

STAFF

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Jennie Chabon, Cantor

Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus

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Judy Blum, Temple Administrator

Jason Pollack & Leeah Segev,
Interim Co-Directors of Education

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Samantha Youngman

UPCOMING BAT MITZVAH

Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Brandeis

Daughter of Anjali and Judson Brandeis

Saturday, February 20

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

*Mazel Tov to our Bat Mitzvah
and her family!*



The Tikvah Tones are always looking for new talent in our temple. If you play an instrument with proficiency and can read some music or charts -

WE WANT YOU!

The Tikvah Tones has been steadily growing over the past few years and we are open to any and all musicians who have a passion to learn new music, be challenged, and to have a blast playing with terrific musicians. We especially need a drummer, but we welcome all instruments, including vocals.

If you're interested in learning more, write to Harry Wittenberg at wittenb1@comcast.net.



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 10th of each month.

Please submit articles electronically to office@tikvah.org (subject Tikvah Talk).

Congregation B'nai Tikvah can be accessed on-line at: <http://www.tikvah.org>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte



Welcome to 2016! It's hard to believe another year has come and gone in our community! I'm excited to share some of the great happenings at B'nai Tikvah and am looking forward to a fantastic year ahead. As always, if you have questions, concerns or comments, your Board of Trustees and I want to hear from you.

You can reach me at bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com.

Our journey into Tikvah 2.0 continues as we keep the best of what's made B'nai Tikvah so special for 34 years while we introduce new traditions and activities. Tikvah 2.0 is more than a new brand and solar panels on our roof – which will be switched on early January saving us an estimated \$10,000/year in utility bills – it's a different way of thinking about what we all expect from B'nai Tikvah and what we can all contribute.

On December 11, I attended our community Hanukkah celebration where dozens of our members brought their menorahs and lit them at the beginning of the service along with the Rabbi and Cantor. As the warm glow from the candles and incredible music filled the sanctuary, I was heartened to see so many familiar and new faces. We are welcoming new members, opening our doors to friends and building our community. Good news!

As I'm writing this I want to acknowledge that we have had – and continue to have – some phenomenal programming to offer including an official Hollywood star and even international talent:

A Jewish Christmas Eve on December 24th... A movie and Chinese food. What could be more Jewish?

Our Third Grade class participating in the Shabbat Service on January 8th... Talk about cute!

An evening of jazz music with Marina Pakowski, Cantor Chabon and Harry Wittenberg on January 9th. Marina is a Jewish professional pianist and vocalist from France and our Cantor and Harry Wittenberg need no introductions.

A Red Carpet Evening with Mayim Bialik, one of the stars of the hit comedy the "Big Bang Theory" and a tireless advocate for Judaism and philanthropy discussing the challenges and opportunities for observant Jews in Hollywood.

I could go on, but the bottom line is that we have innovative new programming, a dynamic and growing community and a very bright future.

Of course, that future depends on growing our membership and stabilizing our income. Another hallmark of Tikvah 2.0 is transparency. At my High Holy Day appeal, I asked for 100% participation and set a goal of raising \$50,000 toward our operating budget. As of December 9th, we're at 27.5% of our goal for participation and 49.5% of our goal for fundraising. I wish those results were better, but they are what they are.

THERE IS STILL TIME. If you'd intended to make a commitment, but haven't yet, please consider doing so now by contacting the temple office or any member of the board. We will

continued on page 5

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Jason Pollack, Interim Co-Director of Education



The Terrific Tutorim and Special Ed

In my last article I detailed the work of the Mighty Madrichim, our teen program of students who have graduated from our CBT religious school and are now helping teachers and students during school. About 10 of our 30 madrichim are in a specific program we call

the Tutorim. This is a tutoring program that works with all grades every Sunday helping all students work on and improve their Hebrew skills, as well as Hebrew prayers. For the 7th grade, the Tutorim help students prepare for B'nai Mitzvah by working on the morning service, Torah service, and each student's parsha (Torah portion) and Haftorah.

Before starting this position as co-interim director of education here at CBT, even though I have two children as students in the school, I did not know this Tutorim program existed. Now I've learned what an incredible program it is and what a great job they do. The program is run by Alex Verona, a young man who has grown up at CBT, went through the religious school, and was a madrich as a teenager. After graduating high school, Alex saw that there was a need for additional tutoring of the students of CBT, especially in the area of Hebrew learning. In response to that, he put together the Terrific Tutorim program. Every Sunday they organize learning for each student based on her/his individual level and needs, pairing like students with a specific madrich (no more than 3 in a group). They meet with each class for 20 minutes and it runs like a well-oiled machine with serious learning happening in the hallways and classrooms. It's very impressive.

Another part of our religious school that not many people know about is that we have a teacher dedicated to help students with special needs—Jennifer Fennel. She is a very accomplished full-time high school teacher who is also dedicated to Jewish education, specifically to those students who have special needs here at CBT. Every Sunday she works one-on-one discreetly with students that teachers or parents have identified as needing extra resources. She also provides strategies and techniques to teachers on how to best serve children with a variety of learning styles. If you think Jennifer could be helpful to you and your family, please contact us. We feel fortunate to be able to provide such an important service to our families.

Finally, we are grateful for the generous support of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay. For the last two years, they have given us significant grants in order to fund our special needs program. We are so blessed at CBT to have the teachers, madrichim and resources to make these programs possible. We can say with confidence that any child, no matter what their unique needs are, can have a meaningful and enriching religious school experience here at CBT.



SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

We had a wonderful time at our Chanukah Party with a terrific attendance. Plenty of latkes and good food were on hand. But the best is always the schmoozing while making no-sew blankets for the children at Children's Hospital Oakland and collecting gifts for Adopt-A-Family program.



Now a new calendar year is here and we have lots of activities planned. I hope to see you often in 2016. If there are activities you think we should be doing, let me know.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ CBT

January

6 (Wednesday): Under One Tent, 10 am , \$5
Our own Sisterhood member, Leslie Rupley will speak about "Writing A No-Big-Deal" memoir. See details on page 9

9 (Saturday): Under One Tent, 7:30 pm , \$25
Cantor Chabon, Marina Pakowski and Harry Wittenberg will present An Evening Of Jazz. See details on back page

14 (Thursday): Under One Tent, 7:30 pm, \$5
Cindy Gershen will be speaking about healthy eating and eating real food. Sisterhood is sponsoring this event at CBT. See details on page 9

19 (Tuesday): Book Sisters, 6:30 pm
"Brooklyn" by Colm Tolbin
Meet at Havana on Bonanza Street in Walnut Creek for dinner and discussion

23 (Saturday): Game Night, 7:30 pm
Play Mah Jongg, Poker, or any other game you want.
See details on page 8

February

6 (Saturday): Red Carpet Evening with Mayim Bialik, 7:30 pm
Sisterhood is helping to sponsor this wonderful event. Get your tickets early, it will sell out if it hasn't already! Details page 16.

16 (Tuesday): Book Sisters, 6:30 pm
"The Lacuna" by Barbara Kingsolver
Location - TBD

March

8 (Tuesday): Contra Costa Jewish Film Festival, 7:30 pm
"5 to 7" playing at Pleasant Hill Cinema
Meet for dinner at 5:30 pm
Sisterhood is sponsoring this film

15 (Tuesday): Book Sisters, 6:30 pm
Location - TBD

18 (Friday): Sisterhood Shabbat, 7:30 pm
Sisterhood members will be participating in the service.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Victoria Blanshteyn and Max Katz
Evelyn 6.1.08 and Gabriel 11.24.13

Bernadette and Nathan Bitton

See page 10 for Notes on New Members

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Fundraising committee is working on 5 to 7 raffle baskets/packages for the February 6 - Red Carpet Evening with Mayim Bialik. If you are able to, please donate Walnut Creek restaurant gift certificates, coffee house certificates, movie theater tickets, San Francisco restaurant certificates or tickets for the A's, Giants, Warriors or SJ Sharks. We are also looking for certificates to any Bay Area children's museums: Children's Discovery Museum (SJ), California Academy of Science, Exploratorium, etc; Waterworld or Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk certificates. Please contact Kelly Kaplan at kelly.kaplan@sbcglobal.net or call (925) 200-5329 with your donations and questions. We would appreciate your donation no later than January 22.

SHALOM CONNECTION

Condolences to

Cindy Turner and family on the loss of her father,
Wade H. Turner, Jr.

Laura Presnick and family on the loss of her
mother, Joan Drittenbas

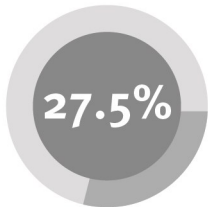
Have something to share? Please let us know!
Email judyblum@tikvah.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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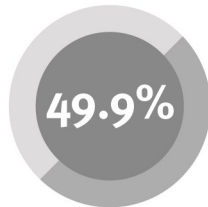
be making phone calls after the first of the year and hope we can count on your support. As I mentioned in the appeal, participation is at least as important as the financial results, so please join us in supporting B'nai Tikvah at a level that is comfortable for you.

HHD Participation
Goal: 100%



88/320

HHD Funds Raised
Goal: \$50,000



\$24,945/\$50,000

HHD APPEAL UPDATES – AS OF 12/9/2015:

Let me close by saying how much I'm enjoying serving as your president and I invite any of you to attend our General Board meetings to get a glimpse of Tikvah 2.0 in action. The dates and times are on our website calendar.

Wishing you a healthy and happy 2016!



Warm coats, scarves, gloves and hats are being collected for Vestia through January 15.



Donations are being collected in the CBT lobby.



TIKVAH L'ATID
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of many CBT members—some founding, some recent, and some in-between—our legacy society added 20 new participants in the last year. As a result, in April 2016, the synagogue will be receiving a \$10,000 incentive grant from the Jewish Federation of the East Bay and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Our new legacy members have contributed much needed money to our coffers in the present, in addition to their plans to provide resources for the synagogue in the future. Thank you to our new legacy members: Tracy and Chanel Benhamou; Mike and Annette Cohn; Barbara Fenichel; Ellen Fenichel; Jared and Trish Goldin; Sandy Gross and Paula Reinman; Tina Guterman and Doug Polcin; John and Susan Klein; Amy Lichtenstein; Idelle Lipman; Al and Deborah Medvin; John and Susan Rubinfeld; Leslie and Bill Rupley; Cookie Svingos; Marc and Deborah Usatin; Mike and Paula Weintraub; Zaffy Welch; Bob and Nessa Wilk; Brian and Kim Zagon; and one anonymous member.

The incentive program will continue for one more year, and the benefits of legacy giving will continue forever, so please consider joining this effort. Please contact Lisa Wenger or Sandy Gross if you are interested in remembering CBT in your estate plans.

January/February 2016

MEN OF CBT

By Bob Grossman, President

The Merry Mensches will be making their debut this month. (Please see the flyers posted in the foyer of the synagogue.) The Men of CBT are starting their fundraiser for The Men of CBT and the CBT General Fund. Money raised will help the Men assist and contribute to events and programs for our Shul.

What are The Merry Mensches?... I'm glad you asked! Hire a mensch to help with anything around the house: cleaning, schlepping, yard work, etc. Many congregants hire outside help to achieve their goals/honey do's around the house. Why not donate to a worthy cause and in return, have a responsible mensch from our congregation do the work for you? The Men are donating their time as a "Mensch" all to achieve a successful fundraiser. Please help us and donate to our cause—you will get a lot in return! For more information please contact me at men.of.cbt@gmail.com or 925-305-0551.

On January 23rd at 7:30 pm The Men of CBT and Sisterhood will host another fun Game Night in our social hall. Poker, Mah Jongg, Dominos and other board games will be available. Poker will have a \$25 buy in. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be given at the end of the evening. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Everyone is invited so men...bring your favorite person. RSVP for the poker game -men.of.cbt@gmail.com.

The next Men's Night Out will be Thursday February 4th at 7 pm at Silk Road Restaurant on Main Street. Join us!

Hire a Mensch for all your labor needs.

January thru March is the first series.

Hire a Mensch and you will be donating to a worthy cause. We do odd jobs, cleaning etc. No job is too difficult for the Merry Mensches.

Call today to reserve a mensch.

Giving back to our Congregation

Helping a worthy cause

Help build the Men of CBT

Bob (925) 305-0551 men.of.cbt@gmail.com

THE B'NAI TIKVAH GIFT SHOP

has many wonderful gifts for sale.

Not only do we have a large selection of Judaica items, we also carry some of the nicest jewelry at great prices.

Do you know anyone with a birthday coming up or how about something for yourself?

Think about it - the Gift Shop profits benefit B'nai Tikvah in many ways.

Gift Shop shopping is doing a mitzvah!

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Esther Appleberg
In memory of Lawrence Shaw
Idelle Lipman

In memory of Chester Tobias
Carol and Allan Tobias

In memory of Lynn Billy
In memory of Barry Goldberg
Wendy and Dale Billy

In memory of Benjamin Edelman
Miriam and Stanley Newman

In memory of Cookie Svingos' Mother
Susan and Joel Friedman

In memory of Jerome Berres
Kimberly and Brian Zagon

In memory of Ameda Weiss
In memory of Leon Weiss
Elizabeth and William Roberts

In memory of Marjorie Shuer
Mery and Jerome Chaney

In memory of Ann Christian
Joni Vineberg

In memory of Stanley Val Goldin
In memory of Ben Ettelson
In memory of John Levich
Trish and Jared Goldin

In memory of Sidney Schwartz
In memory of Marti Schwartz
Cindy Turner and Brian Schwartz

In memory of Rachel Frank
Joyce and Harry Moebius

In honor of Dan Lapporte's birthday
In memory of Edna Wittenberg
Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg

In appreciation of CBT
*Wednesday morning Bridge Group
Morlye Schweitzer*

In memory of Eva Tsukerman
Geniya Levikova and Carlos Trujillo

In memory of Nathan Jacobson
In memory of Richard Shinozaki
Irene Jacobson and Rick Shinozaki

In memory of Sandra Green
Lisa and John McLaurin

In memory of David Resler
In memory of Etta Resler
Nancy and Arthur Solomon

In memory of Frank Lerner
Jill and Kevin Wilk

In memory of Jerome Kushnick

Beverly and Phillip Winslow

In memory of Charles Trepper
Alvin Trepper

In memory of Mildred Newman
In memory of Henry Newman
Miriam and Stanley Newman

In memory of Clara Medvin
In memory of Sue Rattner
Deborah and Alvin Medvin

In memory of Naum Sadetskiy
Natalia and Michail Sadetskiy

In honor of Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Barbara Spack

RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah
The Paul Family

In memory of Fritzi Gewing
In memory of Max Gewing
Anna and Walter Gewing

CANTOR CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Hilda Stone
Sharon and Hugh Tama

In memory of Sydney Rapoport
Cookie Svingos

In honor of Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah
The Paul Family

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of Cookie Svingos' Mother
*Judy and Walt Blum
Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg
Sharon and Ron Brown
Rayna and Richard Ravitz
Suzy Ziegler
Paula Reinman and Sandy Gross
Kathy and Marc Berger*

In memory of Flo Burns
Patricia and Charles Eisner

In memory of Ruth Schultz Goldenberg
Ruth and Larry Goldenberg

In memory of Joan Drittenbas
Laura and Bruce Presnick

In memory of Laura Presnick's Mother
*Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg
Sharon and Ron Brown*

In memory of Herman Roth
Sharon and Ron Brown

In memory of Anthony Aaron Micco
Faith Micco

continued on page 8

REFLECTIONS...

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February 28th: This year marks the 5th annual **Contra Costa Jewish Choral Festival**, a wonderful yearly tradition started by the cantors of B'nai Tikvah, B'nai Shalom and Temple Isaiah. Many years ago we realized that our communities only came together once a year, on Yom Hashoah. We decided that we also needed a joyful reason to bring the three communities together, and so the choral festival was born. The three choirs sing several pieces together and the three cantors do trios and solos to fill out the program. It is always such a festive and enriching afternoon of music. This year's concert will be on **Sunday afternoon, February 28th, at 2 pm in the Temple Isaiah sanctuary.**

April 15th: And last but most definitely not least, I am so excited to announce that B'nai Tikvah and B'nai Shalom are co-sponsoring a Shabbaton featuring **Joey Weisenberg**. Joey is a musician, composer and teacher and the Creative Director of the Hadar Center for Communal Jewish Music. In his own words, Joey "works to empower communities around the world to unlock their musical and spiritual potential, and to make music a lasting and joy-filled force in shul and in Jewish life." He is an incredibly passionate and inspiring teacher and we are so lucky that we will have him in our community for the Shabbat before Passover. He will divide his time between B'nai Tikvah and B'nai Shalom, bringing the communities together in the process. More details to come but for now, please save the date. It will be a once in a lifetime Shabbat experience!



LUNCHTIME LEARNING WITH CANTOR CHABON

the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month
at noon in our social hall.

Join Cantor Chabon twice a month for some informal lunchtime learning. Topics will vary depending on the interests of the group, but will surely include Torah, prayer book exploration and finding meaning in our traditions.

Bring a bag lunch and meet us in the Social Hall-
January 12 and 26, February 9 and 23.

CBT COMMUNITY DAY OF LEARNING - FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Sunday morning from 9:30 am to noon
(Not just for Religious School families!)

The entire CBT community is invited to participate in our Day of Learning. Again we will have fun, interesting, engaging classes presented by the Rabbi, Cantor and Religious School teachers. We are also working on having new offerings for adult members and students of the religious school. Stay tuned—an email with details about this year's Day of Learning will be coming soon!

Passover in January: Moses, MLK, & Pharaoh/King George III

On Saturday morning January 16 at 10 am in the Sanctuary, our Shabbat Minyan guest speaker will be our own Rabbi Emeritus! Rabbi Raphael Asher will discuss his father Rabbi Joseph Asher's Bar Mitzvah Torah portion and accompanying Haftorah reading from the prophet Jeremiah in the context of the Civil Rights movement and the 'heretical' freedoms and faith of America's Founding Fathers.

Join us in welcoming Rabbi Asher. Festive Kiddush to follow.

MUSSAR

The second meeting of CBT's new Mussar group will be held on January 24 at 11 am at CBT. Mussar is a practice of study and action to build ethical practices and holiness into our lives. Born in the yeshivot of Eastern Europe and more recently given a more modern and inclusive twist in the United States, Mussar groups are springing up all over the Jewish-American community.

We will continue our introductory discussion of Mussar practice, do a little text study, and focus on a particular soul-trait to see how to more effectively focus on improvements in our daily life. We will also continue our discussion of how we want to build our Mussar program at CBT. Even if you have no experience with Mussar and just want to see what this is all about, come join us!

Contact Michael Fischer - mjf1155@gmail.com or 925-212-9653.

CONTRIBUTIONS

continued from page 6

In memory of Emily Parker
Patricia Viera

In memory of Belle Lerner
In memory of Frank Lerner
In memory of Bessie Lerner
In memory of Cory Stern
Nessa and Robert Wilk

JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Goldie Cohen
Sally Cohen

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND

In memory of Cookie Svingos' Mother
Lisa and Howard Wenger
Leslie and Bill Rupley

In memory of Sidney Solomon
Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards

In memory of Louis Becker
In memory of Arthur Becker
Susan and John Klein

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Gertrude Sherman
Lynette and Alan Scharlach

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Lily Maslow
Michael Fischer

In memory of Ida Shiela Salusky
Monica Salusky and John Sutherland

ROSE & SAM USATIN MUSIC FUND

In memory of Bernice Scharlach
Lynette and Alan Scharlach

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Laura Presnick's Mother
Kathy and Marc Berger

In memory of Daniel Bristow
In memory of Marc Kemna
Gloria Kemna

In honor of Dan Lapporte's birthday
Linda and Bruce Meyers

In memory of Marilyn Cherry
In memory of Arnold Cherry
In memory of Don Cherry
Barbara and Bill Almy
Kimberly and Craig Cherry

In honor of Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Barbara Spack

TREE OF LIFE – A LEAF HAS BEEN ADDED

Great Grandson - Caleb Gordon - June 24, 2015
Robin and Larry Gordon

GAME NIGHT



Poker, Mah Jongg, Dominos & More!
January 23, 7:30 pm

Come and Play with the Men of CBT and Sisterhood as we have another Game Night at CBT. All your favorite games under one roof. Snacks will be provided and prizes as well. Poker will be \$25 buy in for \$150 in chips. At 10 pm we will finish up and prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place with the most \$\$\$ (Second buy in \$20 for \$75 in chips)

For more information: (925) 305-0551 or
men.of.cbt@gmail.com

MY JEWISH BABY

A support group for parents

Are you looking for a place that offers advice and support from other parents going through similar experiences with their baby? Are you looking for connections with other Jewish families? Are you noticing that your life with a new baby changes your relationships and sense of self?

An 8 session group for parents raising their children in the Jewish community, facilitated by Liora Abrahams-Brosbe, MFT, RDT.

Wednesdays 10 - 11:30 am
January 13th – March 2nd
Cost: \$65 per family for 8 weeks*

Parents of all backgrounds with babies
0 - 8 months welcome!

Registration required: goo.gl/forms/zTCO65IGKi

For questions email schooldirector@tikvah.org.



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

Sunday drop off Pre-K Class
 10am - noon

ages 4-5 - the year prior to
 Kindergarten.

*Registration required.
 Adult(s) do not attend.*

Monthly Jewish Themes.

January 24th Tu BiSh'vat
 February 21st Torah
 March 20th Purim
 April 17th Passover
 May 15th 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!

January 10th Tu BiSh'vat
 February 7th Torah
 March 6th Purim
 April 3rd Passover
 May 1st Israel and Yom
 Ha'Atzmaut

TIKVAH TOTS

Weekly Friday Playgroup
 10am - 11 am

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!

Check Temple calendar at
www.tikvah.org for exact dates.



UNDER ONE TENT
 CONTRA COSTA JEWISH BOOK & ARTS FESTIVAL



Learn how to cut sugar, lose weight
 and turn the tables on processed
 foods with **Cindy Gershen: Chef/
 Owner, Sunrise Bistro, Sustainable
 Hospitality Culinary Instructor, Mt.
 Diablo High School.**

Thursday, January 14th at 7:30 pm, \$5

Join Leslie Rupley to learn about
 how to begin your own memoir:

- Why should I write my stories?
- What are some ways to jog my memory?
- What makes an engaging memoir?
- What part(s) of my life should I record?
- Why is memoir called creative non-fiction?



Wednesday, January 6th at 10 am, \$5

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH



**GIVE | SAVE
 BLOOD | LIVES**

On average, patients undergoing *open heart surgery* need 6 to 8 units of blood. Please support your community and donate blood.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 28, 2016
9 am - 1 pm

Location: Bloodmobile

25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

To schedule your life-saving appointment please visit
www.bloodheroes.com
 click 'Locate a Blood Drive' and enter sponsor code: CBT

Questions contact: **Alison Negrin** <chefalison@gmail.com>

Save the Date & Save a Life this Valentine's Month!



• PLEASE BRING A PHOTO ID • PLEASE EAT AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER BEFORE DONATING •

CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Arons, CCM Director

Tikkun Olam or Repair the World is a Jewish phrase that we often teach in Jewish education. We want our students to know not only that making the world a better place is an important Jewish value, but that it is their responsibility to do this work. This year at Contra Costa Midrasha we are taking a very “hands-on” approach to this work of *tikkun olam*.

Most recently, CCM reignited its **Annual Veteran’s Day of Service**. This is the third year where CCM teens have gone out into the community to do service locally, on a day when they don’t have school. This year, **14 teens travelled on November 11th (Veteran’s Day) to Antioch where they served lunch to the veterans living at the Casa Verde transitional housing facility**. The day included some meaningful sharing between the vets and our CCM teens. The teens asked questions about the vets’ service in the Armed Forces and listened intently to the answers. At the end of the experience, teens expressed that the day had helped to break their assumptions and stereotypes about veterans – coming to understand that they “are people like us who’ve been through some really hard stuff.” Many teens also heard the veterans’ advice about life – encouraging them to stay on track, to find discipline and to have goals. It was an afternoon of true service, where both our teens and the veterans at Casa Verde were touched by each others’ presence. In addition to bringing lunch, many CCM families also donated bedding items that will keep the Casa Verde vets warm this Winter. CCM thanks Casa Verde for opening its doors and our generous donors – the Brenden Mann Foundation, the Jewish Community Federation and Foundation of the East Bay and individual members like you for making work like this possible.

Our newest program, the **Teen Tikkun Olam Philanthropy Board** continues the philanthropy and leadership work of the Jewish Federation and Foundation of the East Bay’s “Jewish Teen Foundation Network.” Meeting once a month from Octo-

ber – May on Sunday afternoons, **teens will learn leadership skills, the 4-1-1 of service and volunteerism and Jewish philanthropy and Tzedakah**. Together, they will pick a mission, fundraise for that mission and distribute funds to organizations who do the work relevant to their mission. Specifically, teens who participate will literally become philanthropists and activists – raising money through various fundraising methods and going out in the field to do service work. While our formal fundraising won’t begin until Winter of 2016, the program has already received matching funding from the Morton and Amy Friedkin Family Foundation and the Howard and Susan Geifman Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation. The CCM Teen Philanthropy Board aims to award \$15,000 - \$25,000 in grants to local, global, Jewish and Israeli organizations, which will be raised by the teen Board members themselves.

Lastly, this holiday season we continued our partnership with **Shalom Bayit’s Hanukkah “Adopt-a-Family” program**. Shalom Bayit is the Bay Area’s center for domestic violence prevention and response within the Jewish community. Our teens and families purchased gifts for the two families we adopted – helping to make their holiday season very special, even while coping with transitioning away from a domestic violence situation. On December 2nd we gathered and wrapped all the gifts, which got delivered by the people and volunteers who work at Shalom Bayit.

Join us for more inspiration and FUN on February 20, 2016 for our annual gala. This year we celebrate Contra Costa Midrasha that night at the San Ramon Community Center. Buy tickets or donate at <https://shop.ccmidrasha.com>. See you there!

For more information about these programs, or CCM’s ongoing Wednesday night programming, visit www.ccmidrasha.com. Enrollment is always open for any teen wanting to join!

Notes on New Members

Going forward, each issue of Tikvah Talk will feature a brief profile of one of our new members, whether an individual or a household. We hope you enjoy getting to know our newcomers – and that if you are a newcomer, you too would like to tell us more about yourself and what’s drawn you to join Congregation B’nai Tikvah. Happy reading!

Judd and Anjali Brandeis and family:

The Brandeis family happily joined B'nai Tikvah in November of 2014. We were looking for a warm and welcoming Jewish environment in which to teach and reinforce traditional values in our children. Sydney was 12 at the time, Sabrina 10 and Owen and Olivia were 8. At CBT we found a comfortable community that accepted us for who we were and what we were able to contribute. Our children quickly acclimated to the Hebrew School and joyfully fill our house with Hebrew songs. Their smiles coming off the bus from Camp Newman were priceless. Simchat Torah was a unique and spiritual experience for all of us, as was hearing Cantor Chabon's beautiful voice on Kol Nidre. Rabbi Gutterman has inspired us with her wisdom and kindness. We are looking forward to our first significant milestone at B'nai Tikvah for our family -- the Bat Mitzvah of our oldest daughter Sydney in February. Julia Babka- Kurzrock has been wonderful helping Sydney make up for the late beginning. We all feel privileged to have found B'nai Tikvah, and we are happy to call it our spiritual home.



JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 (no school)	28	29 (no school) 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	30 NO Midrasha 10:00am Open Bridge	31	1 (Office Closed) 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	2 Parashat Shemot 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 9:45am Morning Minyan traveling to Beth El, Berkeley
3 Religious School 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts	4	5 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	6 NO Midrasha 10:00am Open Bridge 10:00am Under One Tent - Leslie Rupley here	7 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	8 10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:30pm Shabbat Service - 3rd graders participating	9 Parashat Vaera 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening of Jazz with Marina Pakowski, Cantor Chabon & Harry Wittenberg
10 Religious School 10:00am - 12:00pm K'Tantan - Tu BiSh'vat	11 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Education Committee 7:30pm - 8:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	12 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm Lunchtime Learning w/Cantor Chabon 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Midrasha BOD meeting	13 10:00am - 11:30am My Jewish Baby 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	14 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:30pm Under One Tent - Cindy Gershen here	15 10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:00pm Pot-luck dinner 7:30pm Shir Joy	16 Parashat Bo 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan w/Rabbi Asher
17 (no school) 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts 7:30pm Nava Tehila in Concert	18 MLK Day (Office Closed)	19 (no school) 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters	20 NO Midrasha 10:00am - 11:30am My Jewish Baby 10:00am Open Bridge	21 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	22 Shabbat Service (check Temple calendar for start time @ www.tikvah.org) 10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots	23 Parashat Beshalach 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan - Shabbat Shira! 7:30pm Game Night!
24 Religious School 10:00am - 12:00pm Gan Gani - Tu BiSh'vat	25 Tu BiSh'vat 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	26 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm Lunchtime Learning w/Cantor Chabon 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	27 10:00am - 11:30am My Jewish Baby 10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm Adult Ed meeting 7:15pm Midrasha	28 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	29 Midrasha Retreat 10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:30pm Shabbat Service - Tu B'Shevat Oneg	30 Parashat Yitro 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am - 11:00am Morning Minyan
31 Midrasha Retreat Religious School 10:00am - 11:30am All in the Jewish Family - The Non Jew in the Synagogue 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts						

JOIN OUR CBT COMMUNITY FOR DINNER

Friday, January 15
Potluck Dinner at 6 pm. Shir Joy at 7:30.
Watch your email for sign up details.
Sign ups due Wednesday, January 13.

FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Midrasha Retreat Religious School 10:00am - 11:30am All in the Jewish Family - The Non Jew in the Synagogue 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts	1	2 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	3 10:00am - 11:30am My Jewish Baby 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	4 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:00pm Men's Night Out	5 10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm - 6:30pm Pizza dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	6 Parashat Mishpatim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am - 11:00am Morning Minyan 6:00pm Mayim Bialik!!
7 Religious School 10:00am - 12:00pm K'Tantan - Torah	8 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Education Committee 7:30pm - 8:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	9 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm Lunchtime Learning w/Cantor Chabon 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 7:00pm Midrasha BOD meeting	10 10:00am - 11:30am My Jewish Baby 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	11 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	12 10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 6:30pm Shabbat Service - 4th graders participating	13 Parashat Terumah 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am - 11:00am Morning Minyan
14 (no school)	15 Presidents Day (Office Closed)	16 (no school) 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	17 10:00am - 11:30am My Jewish Baby 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	18 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:00pm Adult Ed meeting	19 10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots 7:30pm Shir Joy - Men of CBT Shabbat	20 Parashat Tetzaveh 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Brandeis 6:30pm - 10:30pm Midrasha Gala
21 East Bay Intl Jewish Film Festival Religious School - DAY OF LEARNING! 10:00am - 12:00pm Gan Gani - Torah 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts	22 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	23 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm Lunchtime Learning w/Cantor Chabon 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	24 10:00am - 11:30am My Jewish Baby 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	25 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	26 Shabbat Service (check Temple calendar for start time @ www.tikvah.org) 10:00am - 11:00am Tikvah Tots	27 Parashat Ki Tisa 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am - 11:00am Morning Minyan
28 Religious School 9:00am - 1:00pm Blood Drive 10:00am - 11:30am All in the Jewish Family - Interlove Story: When Jews Love Non-Jews and Judaism 2:00pm - 3:30pm Choral Festival @ Isaiah	29					

JOIN OUR CBT COMMUNITY FOR DINNER

Friday, February 5 Pizza dinner 6 pm
Between our 5:30 Tot Shabbat & 6:30 Family Shabbat
\$10 adults, \$5 children
Reservations due Wednesday, February 3

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

SOCIAL ACTION CORNER

Get involved in climate action, Donations, Food access and Immigration Rights, etc.

Dates to Save

January 17, 10 am - Social Action Meeting, CBT

February 28, 9 am-1 pm– Blood Center of the Pacific Blood Drive

July 23-24 – Annual Relay for Life/American Cancer Society

Planned Projects

Volunteer Center of East Bay, Passover Care Packages

Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive, Interfaith Contra Costa County Food Security Task Force

Proposed Projects

Monument Crisis Center Garden, Food Bank of Contra Costa Welcoming LGBT Community, Sustainability and Climate Change, Organ Transplant, FCS – East Bay helping to resettle refugees

Please join our committee and make a difference!

Contact Alison Negrin - chefalison@gmail.com for more info.

ADULT ED COMMITTEE

The Adult Education Committee is planning some exciting programs for this year but we need your help. Planning is underway for The Jewish Night of Why (a fun evening where you get to ask why we do what we do as Jews), a course on Jewish sacred texts, a new book group, collaborations with the Social Action Committee and Ritual Committee on Jewish approaches to sustainability and many more programs to enrich our Jewish experience. Come to a meeting, January 27 and February 18 at 7 pm at CBT and tell us how you'd like to help.

For more information, please contact Michael Fischer at mjfl155@gmail.com or 925-212-9653.

ALL IN THE JEWISH FAMILY

Three classes to explore Interfaith topics with Dawn Kepler, Rabbi Gutterman & Cantor Chabon

THE NON-JEW IN THE SYNAGOGUE Sunday, January 31, 2016

Our synagogue is blessed to have many interfaith couples as members, many of whom are very involved. That involvement has led to some common questions. How should I behave in services; should I do what the Jews are doing – bow, recite the Hebrew? How should I deal with lines like, 'thank you God for making me a Jew' when I'm not a Jew? I wonder if I'll be offending anyone by 'acting' like a Jew or by saying Shabbat Shalom or Shana Tovah. Does that make me an impostor? I'm not sure whether I'm allowed to touch the Torah. For better or worse, every synagogue has its own customs. Come learn about the customs and traditions at B'nai Tikvah. We can also touch on common practice at other shuls if you are anticipating visiting elsewhere for a family simcha.

INTERLOVE STORY: WHEN JEWS LOVE NON-JEWS AND JUDAISM Sunday, February 28, 2016

In 1994 Anne was a graduate student at Stanford University in the Film Department. For her Master's Thesis she made a short film (9 minutes) about her parents' intermarriage and titled it Interlove Story. In it she uses old family movies and current interviews with her parents to tell the story of their Catholic – Jewish marriage, the choices they made regarding religion in their home and the advice they gave her regarding her own relationship with a non-Jewish man. In her film, Anne does not propose any answers. She opens questions and relates choices, the choices that have brought her to be who she is. There are some statements that jump off the screen – whether you agree or disagree, you'll have an opinion.

PATRILINEAL DESCENT, REFORM JUDAISM & THOSE OTHER JEWS Sunday, March 13, 2016

(see our website for class details)

Classes are from 10 to 11:30 am and are free to CBT members, \$5/public



Dawn Kepler has worked in outreach to interfaith families since 1990. She developed Building Jewish Bridges: Embracing Interfaith Families in 1998 for Lehrhaus Judaica, in response to a request from the Walter & Elise Haas Fund. Dawn has chaired the Interfaith Committee of the Pacific West, served on the Jewish Community Federation Endowment Fund of San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma Counties & the Peninsula Interfaith Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Alliance of Jewish Interfaith Outreach Professionals. When she served as Outreach Chair of her own synagogue the shul won several Belin Outreach Awards. Dawn works with all branches of Judaism and has taught in a wide range of venues around the country.

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Taste of CCJDS
1st-7th grade students are invited to visit our classrooms for the day
Wednesday, November 11

K-8th Grade Open House
Sunday, November 15,
4:30-6:00pm
Preschool families join us for a Sunday FunDay starting at 3:00pm

Middle School Open House
Thursday, January 28,
6:00-8:00pm

School Tours and Lunch
October 22, November 12, December 15, January 14,
11:00am-12:30pm
*Enjoy a delicious hot lunch and tour of CCJDS! Kindly RSVP
Private tours by appointment*

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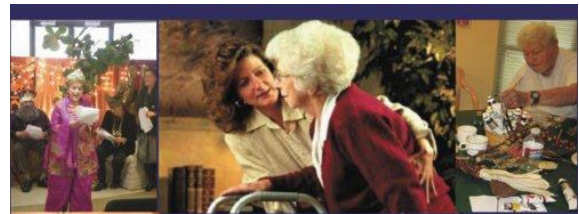
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Saturday, February 20, 2016 • 6:30-10:30pm
San Ramon Community Center
Dinner, Live & Silent Auctions, Dancing
80's attire encouraged!

Information and tickets at
shop.ccmidrasha.com

EAST BAY CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

Every Child Needs a Book

The bin is in our lobby.

Bring in gently used books for all age children.

[http://](http://www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org/)

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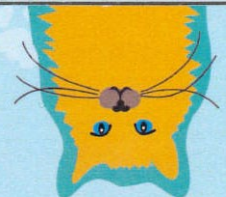
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For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.



AN EVENING OF JAZZ

Join us for a fabulous evening of jazz and classical piano with French Jewish musician Marina Pacowski, Cantor Jennie Chabon and Harry Wittenberg.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9TH
7:30 PM

Admission: \$25 includes French wine and cheeses.
Tickets available through Brown Paper Tickets.
BrownPaperTickets.com - search Walnut Creek

Actress, Neuroscientist, Philanthropist

5:30 pm Hors d'oeuvres, no host bar

6:00 pm Mayim Speaks

7:00 pm Casual dinner

Valet parking available.

Tiered price plan: \$36-\$1000

Pricing details & tickets available at
mayim-at-cbt.eventbrite.com.

For more info, call the CBT office.

