



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

March / April 2016

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 35 Iss. 4

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



What an amazing winter it's been... from January's Saturday night Jazz Concert to February's Red Carpet Evening with Mayim Bialik. Both events filled our synagogue to capacity, and were a powerful testament to our dynamism, volunteer commitment and community spirit. B'nai Tikvah is a true shining star!

It's an educationally rich season for our congregation as well. Our lay led Mussar group continues to meet and find its way towards regular study together, and new congregants are always welcome. The first session of "All In The Jewish Family" facilitated by Dawn Kepler of Lehrhaus Judaica was held on January 30. Attendees ranged from members to guests, parents of school age children to congregants with tales of grandparenthood to share! It was a remarkably open and honest session during which we all had the opportunity to learn more about the challenges and opportunities that go along with being a non-Jew involved in Judaism and synagogue life. By the time you read this, our second session on February 28 will have come and gone, but we hope you'll join us for the third and final one on Sunday March 13 from 10-11:30am in the Library, which will address issues of Jewish identity from a Reform perspective. (These sessions are free to CBT members, and \$5 each for the public).

And speaking of Lehrhaus, as promised in my last Tikvah Talk column, here are the details on the next series we're collaborating on. It's called "Walking in The Valley of the Shadow – And Not Being Afraid." Did you know it's been documented that the question of what happens to us after we die is the most common one that people ask of their religious traditions? Over the years, I have asked a range of students in different classes I've taught why they think this is. Responses have ranged from the urgency that goes with wanting loved ones we have lost to be at peace, to the hope we all hold in common that we will be remembered and will leave a legacy of meaning. Another answer that has stayed with me came about recently during a Midrasha class. In the words of one of our ninth graders: "well... we *like* living so of course we'd want to know what happens after we can't anymore."

Her words speak to the essence of what "Walking in the Valley of the Shadow..." is all about. There will be six sessions on topics such as conversations about end-of-life wishes, Jewish laws and traditions around mourning and burial practices, consoling mourners, and finding support for ourselves when we are the ones walking through that valley. Sessions will be led by area rabbis, doctors and mental health professionals, and will be

continued on page 7

REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



Twelve years ago, on July 1st, 2004, I walked through the doors of Congregation B'nai Tikvah to begin serving as your cantor. It was just weeks after my graduation from cantorial school, and I came to the synagogue brimming with enthusiasm for Judaism and for life in the pulpit. I didn't know much about what that life would actually look like, but I knew with deep certainty that it was the life I was called to live.

That conviction is still with me today as strongly as it was then. I feel so very lucky to be doing work in this world that I feel I am meant to do. I know that many people cannot say that about their jobs, and I don't take that belief for granted. The more I have gotten to know our community, the more I want to engage with it and be an agent of transformation for our members. I have witnessed such exciting growth and change in the last 12 years, and I have been privileged to help nurture a thirst for learning and prayer that is so palpable here on Hillcroft Way. I want nothing more than to keep contributing to that growth in our community, but in order to do so, it is time for me to take a break to help recharge my own spiritual batteries, so to speak. Pulpit life is very taxing, especially with three young children at home. For that reason, I am thrilled to be taking a three month sabbatical starting on May 1st of this year.

The idea of sabbatical is biblical in origin, from Leviticus 25. It comes from God's instructions to the Israelites about how to treat the land of Israel in order to keep it rich and fertile:

When you enter the land that I assign to you, the land shall observe a Sabbath of the Eternal. Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield. But in the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath of the Eternal: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. (Leviticus 25: 2-4)

The idea in this passage is that the land needs a year of rest, when it is not expected to give or produce, in order to replenish itself. Then the following year the yield will be full and productive. Most religious traditions have established this kind of sabbatical for their clergy for the very same reasons. In a job that requires so much teaching and giving, we need a rest every seven (or twelve!) years in order to give back to ourselves before returning to the work of caring for a community.

One of the many things I am looking forward to during my sabbatical is time spent visiting other congregations. I will fully enjoy the experience of being a congregant for a few months so that I can learn from what other synagogues are doing.

continued on page 7

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.

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UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

Bar Mitzvah of Zackary Goldberg

Son of Lauren & Michael Goldberg

Saturday, March 5

Bar Mitzvah of Micah Wilk

Son of Karen Wilk & Brent Wilk

Saturday, March 12

Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Gordon

Daughter of Michelle & Craig Gordon

Saturday, March 19

Bar Mitzvah of Kurtis Enloe

Son of Jane Baulch-Enloe &
Timothy Enloe

Saturday, April 2

Bar Mitzvah of Yasha Akkerman

Son of Irina & Igor Akkerman

Saturday, April 9

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

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

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



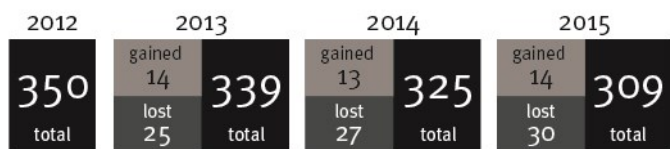
And the hits just keep on coming... Our transition to 6 rather than 12 issues of Tikvah Talk each year means each issue is packed with more information about our community, and this issue is no exception. As with the last few articles I've written, there is no shortage of material for me to draw on: some amazing and some, hopefully, that will cause you to reflect on the state of our Shul and broader Jewish community. As always, your thoughts are welcome by emailing me at bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com.

In January, Judy Blum, our Temple Administrator for the past 17 years, announced her retirement. Judy has served our community exceptionally well in her role and will remain a lifetime friend and member of CBT. I think I can speak for the presidents, boards and members before me and offer a heartfelt *todah rabah* for everything Judy has done for our community through the years. Judy will remain in her role until the end of May, and we have already begun a search for her replacement. While filling Judy's shoes will be a challenge, I'm optimistic that we'll be able to attract some top talent applicants for her role. Watch this space for more updates!

On Saturday February 7, CBT hosted Mayim Bialik, one of the stars of the award winning television show, 'The Big Bang Theory.' Following a beautiful Havdallah service lead by our clergy, Mayim spoke to a sold out audience about her experiences as a Jewish actor in Hollywood, her publications and teaching experience at UCLA and answered questions from those in attendance. Not since Yom Kippur have we had such a full house! This Red Carpet Evening was a long time in the making and was the first of several celebrity appearances we hope to host. These events are membership events first and fund raisers second. Our membership committee dream team, co-lead by Julia Babka-Kurzrock and Bonnie Tornheim, assembled an army of volunteers to make the evening successful. THANK YOU TEAM MAYIM!!

An important element of the February 7 event is that we opened our doors to fellow synagogues and our community to show that CBT can be a destination. We're hoping that these events and more like it will open our doors to those who may not be aware of all that we have to offer, and will drive our membership up from there. And speaking of membership, here's one of those reflective moments for all of us: At 309 family units or households, our membership is at a multi-year low. There a lot of reasons for this including former members leaving us and a slow-down in new member growth, but the facts are the facts. Membership is the life-blood of B'nai Tikvah, and your Board of Trustees is actively working on reversing this trend. Here's a summary of our membership trends over three years:

B'nai Tikvah Net Membership: 2013-2015



continued on page 5

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Jason Pollack, Interim Co-Director of Education



The Amazing Teaching Staff of CBT Religious School

Teachers never get enough credit (or appreciation or recognition) - that's my opinion and my experience as a teacher. Most of what teachers do happens in each individual classroom, between teachers and students. Teachers are, I think, some of the most giving, thoughtful, hard-working people I've met. Most of this goes largely unnoticed by the public at large. That is why I'm dedicating this article to our outstanding teaching staff here at CBT Religious School.

Our teachers here at CBT are, quite simply, the very best. Let's take a tour of some of the classrooms and see what can happen on a typical day at CBT Religious School.

The first classroom we'll visit is the 3rd grade. Mora Zvia Bitansky is leading the students in learning how to take their knowledge of Hebrew letters and sounds, and blending them into words. It is in 3rd grade when students begin to read Hebrew. Every time I go in Mora Zvia's room, the students are focused and hard at work in a fun way. Her classroom is immaculate and organized. She takes her role very seriously and has done so for many, many years. My son, Izzy, is in this class, and one thing he learned recently from Mora Zvia is the different levels of tzedakah as taught by Maimonides—quite impressive to have that level of Jewish learning in 3rd grade, thanks to Mora Zvia.

Next class we go to is 6th grade with Mora Julia Babka-Kurzrock. Her classroom is, at times, a multi-media extravaganza. She continually uses sources from the internet including videos and informational sites to enhance her rich curriculum of deep knowledge of Israel with serious learning of Jewish values. Students also read Jewish-themed books and discuss them. The class even said prayers in simulcast with Jews in Jerusalem, praying at the Kotel (the Western Wall) via a website like "Kotel Cam." What an experience for those students! Thanks, Mora Julia, for always going above and beyond for your students, the Religious School, and CBT as a whole.

In Mora Ellen Fasman's 4th grade room, it's pretty zany - in a good way. The students are eating bagels (Mora Ellen brings one for each student every Sunday), learning prayers, thinking about and discussing the Torah, being steeped in the traditions of the holidays. I'll often pop in, and there they are, dressed in costumes, reading and acting out a script from a Torah or holiday story. Mora Ellen has been here at CBT for over 20 years, the longest of any teacher, and is still working hard every week to bring the very best to our students.

I wish I had room to feature all of our teachers, like Hagit Miller who does a great job with the 2nd grade and the Art program; Aliza May, 5th grade teacher extraordinaire; Julie Rubenstein, such a caring, warm teacher for the K/1 class; and Devra Aarons, along with me and the Rabbi who teach the 7th grade.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful teaching staff here at CBT. It is the teachers that are the core of any school. Because of our teachers, we have a great Religious School for our children.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Our Sisterhood Shabbat is Friday, March 18, I hope many of you are at services to help light the Shabbat candles and take part in the service. I love seeing my "Sisters" participating.

We are sponsoring the Oneg so please bring something if you can.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

8 (Tuesday): Contra Costa Jewish Film Festival, 7:30 pm.
"5 to 7," A touching romantic charmer according to the Film Festival Committee
Films are at Pleasant Hill Cinema
Let's meet for dinner at 5:30 at Corner Bakery Café.
Sisterhood is sponsoring this film so be sure to join us.
Be sure to get your ticket at eastbayjewishfilm.org.

15 (Tuesday): Book Sisters, 6:30 pm.
"Washing the Dead" by Michelle Brafman
Discussion Leader: Lisa Blake
Location - CBT Social Hall
This dinner will probably be catered - watch your email.

18 (Friday): Sisterhood Shabbat, 7:30 pm.
Sisterhood members will be participating in the service.
Speaker will be: Kira Weiss from Fund a Field.
Please plan on attending..

April

3 (Sunday): "Art Play," Leshner Theater, 2:30 pm., \$25
How much would you pay for a solid white painting? \$200,000? Decades long friendship?
These are some of the issues at the head of Yasmina Reza's award winning comedy.
Please let me know if you are interested in this play by March 1. Email raynaravitz@gmail.com.

10 (Sunday): De Young Museum, 10 am.
"Oscar De La Renta" exhibit
Sisterhood is paying for the Docent
RSVP to Cathie Izen cathieizen@gmail.com.

19 (Tuesday): Book Sisters, 6:30 pm.
We need a book and a discussion leader. Let me know!

May

1 (Sunday): Legion of Honor Museum, 10 am.
Pierre Bonard Exhibit
Sisterhood will pay for the Docent
RSVP to: Cathie Izen cathieizen@gmail.com

17 (Tuesday): Book Sisters, 6:30 pm.
"The Girl on the Train" by Paula Hawkins
Discussion leaders - Bonnie Tornheim and Brittany Rein

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Cathy and Tamark Arebalo

Seymour Lapporte

See page 9 for Notes on New Members.

SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, March 18 - No need to cook!

If you missed our past potluck dinners, this one is extra easy - it's catered! For a change of pace, the cuisine is Mexican vegetarian. Please invite your CBT friends to join us for a casual Shabbat dinner before services. No need to cook, but we all need to help with a little clean up after.

Dinner 6 pm. Shir Joy 7:30pm.

Do you know someone who you've thought about inviting to CBT? Guests are always welcome! Invite a friend, so they can join us for our Shir Joy service afterwards.

Adults \$18, Children \$9. Watch your email for the sign up list. Members can always sign up through the Members Only section of our website.

Please RSVP by noon Wednesday, March 16.

Anyone who wants to bring a bottle of wine to share will not be stopped. :)

SHALOM CONNECTION

Mazel tov to

Susan and John Klein on birth of grandson,
Benyamin Yitzhak Klein

Elizabeth Traugott & Michael Moreau on birth of
their daughter, Luella Nora Traugott Moreau

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 3

We are offering programming and outreach that we've never offered before and, through more events like our Red Carpet Evening with Mayim Bialk, an Evening of Jazz, and our extremely popular PreK programs, we hope to bring our membership up to more sustainable levels. **But we need your help...** Please continue to invite your friends and family to attend services and events at CBT in order to support our efforts to increase our membership. As we all know, CBT is a special place with a vibrant and passionate membership: We just need to let more people know!

On a final note for this issue, I want to mention one more reason your membership matters and why we need to sustain Jewish communities. In late January, a billboard along I-680 between Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill was put up by a group called 'If America Knew' espousing the idea that the US should stop sending financial aid to Israel. The billboard says "We give Israel \$10 million a day. That money could send our kids to college." Closer inspection of the group's website – ifamericaknew.org – reveals a lot of anti-Zionist rhetoric along with prominent "Donate" and "Add to Cart" buttons. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is coordinating responses from the Jewish community. This is our backyard and deserves our attention. Your Board of Trustees is closely monitoring the JCRC's work and will keep you informed as we learn more.

Thank you for your continued support of CBT.

B'Shalom.

MEN OF CBT

By Bob Grossman, President

On Sunday, March 27th The Men of CBT will be taking a day trip to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco and meeting for lunch prior to a docent led tour of the "Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution" exhibit.



Explore the life of Bill Graham (1931–1991) from his childhood as a German Jewish Refugee to his pivotal role in making rock music a multi-billion dollar global industry.

The exhibition looks at his immense success as a rock promoter and his pioneering work behind the scenes to use rock music to raise consciousness and deliver aid to those in need. Organized by the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles.

**Lunch is at 12:30 at the Museum Café (Dutch)
Tour is first come, first served at 2 pm.**

Thursday, April 14th, 7 pm

We will have another Poker Night, but new rules: RSVPs are a must. 7 and we'll have a game. Same buy-in and prizes. Sign-up genius to come.

Sunday, April 17th, 10 am

Shmeer and Schmooze in the Social hall with the Men - share bagels and stories.

Wednesday, May 4th, 7 pm

Men's Night Out.! Mark your calendar - details forthcoming..

Mayim voluntarily posed with some of our kids who enthusiastically sold raffle tickets the night of the Red Carpet Evening.

Wouldn't you have bought tickets from these girls also?

Thanks to all of our volunteers, our generous sponsors, Sisterhood, Men of CBT and the Gift Shop, CBT raised over \$11,000 that evening!



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Burton Cohn
In memory of John Baruch
Annette and Michael Cohn
In memory of Jeanette Smolorski
In memory of Joseph Bitton
Bernadette and Nathan Bitton
In memory of Bert De Lowe
Judi and Larry De Lowe
In memory of Esther Leventhal
Diane and Victor Leventhal
In memory of Mildred Newman
In memory of Henry Newman
Miriam and Stanley Newman
In memory of Hannah Glesser
In memory of Abe Glesser
Jordana Green
In memory of Arnold Adelberg
Michelle Meyers and David Adelberg
In memory of Louis Fried
Danny Fried
In memory of Fanny Malkov
In memory of Avrum Girsch Malkov
Rakhil Sadetskiy
In memory of Janet Rupley Church
In memory of Molly Weiss Taner
Leslie and Bill Rupley
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In memory of Sandra Lapporte
Juleen and Dan Lapporte
In memory of Anne Frankel Lapporte
Seymour Lapporte
In memory of Rudolph Vynanek
Joni Vineberg
In memory of Geniya Hesin
In memory of Abram Eyzerman
Geniya Levikova and Carlos Trujillo
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Leah Eskenazi
In memory of David Ziegler
Suzu Ziegler
In memory of Harry Dvorsky
Kathy and Steve Weiner

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In memory of Thomas Cooper
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Cookie Svingos

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In memory of David Gross
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CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of Stanley Kaplan
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Kelly and Aaron Kaplan
In memory of Jackie Boyd
Sharon and Ron Brown
In memory of Shoshana
Maizel Fogel
Yonina and Barry Bushell
In memory of Adlin Peter Viera
Patricia Viera
With appreciation of Havdalah at the
“Mayim” event
Julia Babka

In appreciation of Cantor Chabon
Bernadette and Nathan Bitton

JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Robert Zeimer
In memory of George Maisels
Sally Cohen

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND

In memory of Milton Blink
Robin and Larry Gordon
In appreciation of the CBT choir
Deborah Rose

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Matthew Miller
Julie and Robert Miller

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Harry Maslow
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Marcy and Steve Unger
In memory of Ted Deutsch
Judy and Walt Blum
In memory of Jean Kindall
Katherine and Marc Berger
In memory of Ann Dienst
Gloria Kemna
In memory of Mary Gross
Paula Reinman and Sandy Gross
In honor of Kathy Weiner's special
birthday
Rayna Ravitz
Samantha Youngman
Judy Blum

TREE OF LIFE -LEAVES HAVE BEEN ADDED

In Living Memory, Betty Jo Jensen
In Living Memory, Carlo Henry
Jensen
Martha Jensen

REFLECTIONS...

continued from page 1

I am also incredibly excited that our family is going to Israel for three weeks. Our children have never been and I have not been back since 1999. There is nothing like time in Israel to tap into the depths of spirit that brought me to the pulpit in the first place.

I am, of course, planning on engaging in enriching musical and textual learning that will give me some much-needed inspiration for my own future teaching and service-leading. And last but not at all least, I will revel in time with my family, which is ever in short-supply.

I will miss my CBT family while I am gone and I promise to come back filled with even more enthusiasm and inspiration for the work we are doing here together. Have a joyful and meaningful summer! I will see you when I return in August.

LUNCHTIME LEARNING WITH CANTOR CHABON

the 1st and 3rd 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 in the Social Hall
March 1st and 15th, April 5th and 19th.

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH

continued from page 1

taught at various locations in San Francisco and the East Bay. It is a special point of pride for B'nai Tikvah and Lehrhaus Judaism that we are their site for this series in Contra Costa County. Here are the dates & times (arranged to meet the needs of those who prefer Sunday mornings and those who prefer weeknights) you can find the classes here:

Sunday, March 6 10 am
“Mourning & Grief: After the Death”

Sunday, April 3 10 am
“Your Life is Over: Do You Know Where Your Soul Is?”

Sunday, May 3 10 am
“The Other Conversation: End of Life Wishes”

Tuesday, June 7 7 pm
“The Final Mitzvot (Getting Your House in Order):
Jewish Values”

Tuesday, July 5 7 pm
“Death/Dying/Burial: What Jews Do”

Tuesday, August 2 7 pm
“The Art of Comfort”

Join us for all six, or feel free to pick and choose among them. Our vision is that what we'll learn together will allay our fears, nourish our souls, and bring us all into renewed appreciation for the lives we live and all their gifts, here and now.

Go to this link for full information and to register :

<http://www.lehrhaus.org/2016/01/walking-in-the-valley-of-the-shadow-and-not-being-afraid/>.



THE JEWISH NIGHT OF WHY



Why do some Jews choose to cover their eyes when they light Shabbat candles? Why do we whisper the Barchu, following the Sh'ma? How many customs have you been doing all your life but don't really know why we do them? Well, now is your chance to find out!

Join Rabbi Gutterman and Cantor Chabon on Saturday, April 9th at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall for a very special night of dinner, discussion, and fun. We'll have a potluck dinner, Havdalah service, then put our questions in a hat for the Rabbi and Cantor to draw and answer. Questions are sure to range from concrete practices to wider Jewish beliefs. And, as with all things Jewish, there may be more than one answer, so share your ideas with the group as well, and be prepared for some lively conversation.

Bring a (dairy) dish to share, a bottle of wine if you like, and your questions. Please RSVP to Janet Brandess at jbrandesso8@gmail.com by April 7th.



CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Arons, CCM Director

Midrasha's retreats are better than ever! Retreats truly are the glue of our Midrasha program. These weekend Shabbat experiences in nature and away from the stressful teen lives - our teens deepen their relationships with our mentor/educators, each other, and their inner Jewish identity. We hold three retreats a year, all at Camp Newman and in partnership together with all four Midrasha campuses. So teens from the Berkeley, Oakland, Contra Costa and Tri-Valley/Tri-City areas come together on these weekends to experience Shabbat, learn, relax, sign, play and more. The highlight of the weekend is our Havdalah ceremony. Lead by the incomparable Eric Schoen and under the light of the twinkling stars, our arms intertwined - they help our teens take a piece of the peace of Shabbat into the week ahead.

As one teen put it during the Winter retreat, "I've never experienced anything like that - a feeling of community and being Jewish. Wow - I could cry - it meant so much to me." Our next retreat is April 8-10 and we can't wait to have as many of our teens join us as possible!

To find out more the Spring Midrasha retreat, visit: <http://shop.ccmidrasha.com/Spring-2016-Midrasha-Retreat-SPRTRT2016.htm>

To hear more about the impact of Havdalah and retreats, visit: <https://vimeo.com/153833565>

April 20th is our big OPEN HOUSE for 7th graders and their parents. This is a great night for teens to try out Midrasha as it actually happens. 7th graders will have their own chance to learn together as a larger community, then they will get their choice of electives including improv, Jewish music, Israeli sports, Hands-On Judaism through Art and more! It's also an

opportunity for parents to learn more about Midrasha, to experience a sample lesson and to hear from Midrasha teens about why our program is so important to them. The evening starts at 6:30pm with pizza and then continues during our regular Contra Costa Midrasha program from 7:15-9:15pm. The event happens at B'nai Tikvah - 25 Hillcroft Way in Walnut Creek. Families can RSVP online at www.ccmidrasha.com/open-house.

This year we've been working on a new endeavor - our Teen Philanthropy Board! Twelve teens from our local community have been learning about fundraising, philanthropy, Tzedakah and making a difference. In January, the teens built their mission around which to fundraise. Here it is:

The Contra Costa Teen Philanthropy Board aims to support efforts to alleviate the poverty of at-risk peoples in our local community, in Israel and around the world, by utilizing tools of preventative action and direct intervention to achieve self-sufficiency and a safe environment.

In the next months, our teens will be choosing organizations to support and doing the hard work of fundraising. You may be hearing from them about this endeavor. I hope that you will consider funding their hard work so that they can provide grant funds to the organizations whose work is in line with their mission.

It's never too late to join Contra Costa Midrasha! Teens are welcome to drop in on any Wednesday night! For more information, visit: www.ccmidrasha.com, call 925/944-4701 or e-mail office@ccmidrasha.com.

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

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



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!

March 6th Purim

April 3rd Passover

May 1st Israel and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

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.

March 20th Purim

April 17th Passover

May 15th Israel and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Notes on New Members

Below is a brief profile of one of our new members.

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!

Nathan and Bernadette Bitton

Hello everyone!

We are Nathan and Bernadette Bitton, and we are very happy to be new members of the CBT community. We were very fortunate that in September 2015, the son of close friends of ours asked if we would care to come to a Shabbat service; we said yes, and from that first night we felt that we found a new spiritual home. Whether we enjoying Rabbi Gutterman's warm, quiet humor on Friday nights or Cantor Chabon's endlessly interesting Tuesday afternoon class, we feel an increasingly close affinity toward the people and place that is B'nai Tikvah. As Jews, we all strive to find the right community for our needs. Spiritual, religious, cultural...they all have to be there in the right amount to satisfy each of us. Sometimes it takes a long time to find the perfect place. In B'nai Tikvah we feel, like Goldilocks, that this one is , "just right." We hope that in time we will become welcome and contributing members of this new home and that we will be able to enhance the lives of others as others have done for us in the last six months. We look forward to participating in many programs and events and feel very fortunate indeed that our lives have done more than merely crossed path.



PURIM!!

PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 20 12:15 pm

Fun for all ages

lunch, art, costume parade, games & prizes!

All are encouraged to come in costume!

\$3 for a slice of pizza & fruit

\$5 unlimited game tickets

Hosted by

CBT & Shevet Egoz

Megillah Reading & Shpiel -

Wednesday, March 23

“The Megillah according to the Beach Boys!”

Evening begins w/dinner (see pg 11)

Followed by Megillah Reading & Shpiel at 6:30 pm.

All willing congregants are invited to participate!

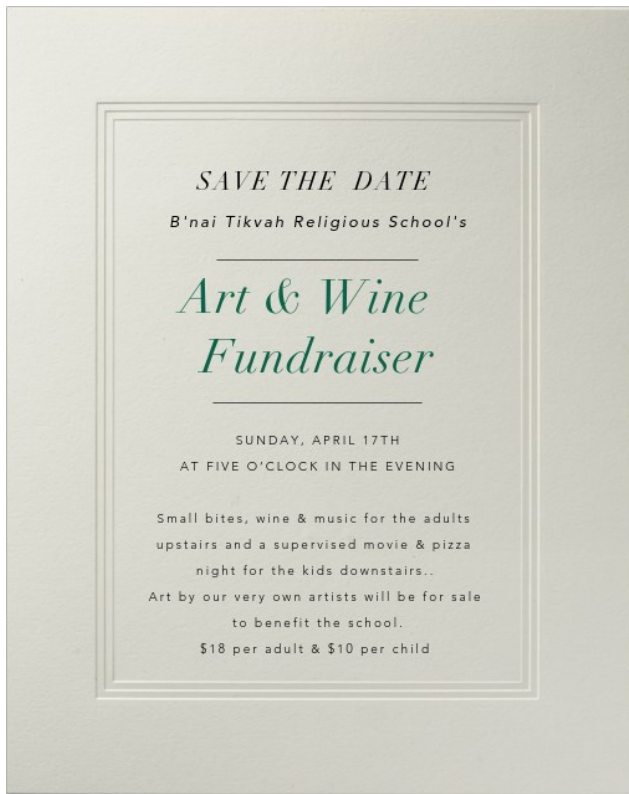
Rehearsals will be held on three consecutive

Thursdays from 7:15-9:00 on March 3rd, 10th and 17th.

APRIL FOOL’S SHABBAT

YOU’D BE A FOOL TO MISS THE FUN - WE’RE GOING TO HEATHER FARMS PARK FOR DINNER & SERVICES!

Arrive at 5:30 and enjoy your picnic dinner in the park. Sing some Shabbat tunes with Lisa Zeiler and Darren Bauer-Kahan. At 6:30 Rabbi Gutterman, Cantor Chabon, Lisa and Darren will all lead a casual family service. Dessert will be provided. This handicap accessible site is the picnic area closest to the playground. In the event of inclement weather, an email will go out Friday at noon.



Jennie Chabon and Lisa Zeiler

Saturday | April 30th | 8 p.m.
 Freight and Salvage Coffee House
 2020 Addison Street Berkeley
 \$21 advance/\$23 door
 Tickets: www.thefreight.org



A Message from Blood Centers of the Pacific

A HUGE THANK YOU for the success of the recent AMERICAN HEART MONTH & VALENTINE'S MONTH Blood Drive. THANKS TO YOUR AMAZING EFFORTS, we had 25 appointments, 5 walk-ins, 5 no-shows, and 25 people register to give blood. With only 3 deferrals, 22 people were able to donate – WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL OF 16 BY 6 DONATIONS! In addition, when blood is broken down to its components (red cells, platelets, plasma), each donation has the potential to help three patients, and with 1 of these being 2RBC donation (Yay!) This means that 23 products were collected and 69 LOCAL patients are helped by your sponsorship!



SEE A FILM. SEE THE WORLD.

March 5 - March 13

Century 16 Theatres, Pleasant Hill

CBT's Film Festival screening--Don't Miss "5 to 7"

a delightful romantic comedy

co-starring Glenn Close and Frank Langella.

Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 pm

For tickets and a complete schedule:

eastbayjewishfilm.org.

MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
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		10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/Cantor Chabon 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	10:00am - 11:30am My Jewish Baby 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm - 6:30pm Pizza dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	East Bay Intl Jewish Film Festival Parashat Vayakhel 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Zackary Goldberg
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
East Bay Intl Jewish Film Festival						
Religious School 10:00am - 12:00pm K'Tantan - Purim 10:00am - 11:30am Walking In the Valley of the Shadow - And Not Being Afraid 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts		10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 7:00pm Midrasha BOD meeting	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha @ Film Festival	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Pekudei 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Micah Wilk
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
East Bay Intl Jewish Film Festival						
Religious School 10:00am - 11:30am All in the Jewish Family - Patrilineal Descent, Reform Judaism & Those Other Jews	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 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/Cantor Chabon 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 6:30pm Book Sisters 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	6:00pm - 7:15pm Shabbat dinner! 7:30pm Shir Joy - Sisterhood Shabbat	Parashat Vayikra 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Gordon
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11:30am - 1:00pm Purim Carnival!		10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	10:00am Open Bridge 5:45pm - 6:45pm Purim 'pizza' dinner 6:30pm - 7:30pm Megillah Reading & Purim Shpiel 7:15pm Midrasha	Purim 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	7:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Tzav 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - 6th graders participating
27	28	29	30	31		
Religious School 12:30pm Men of CBT to CJM	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 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!		

JOIN OUR CBT COMMUNITY FOR DINNERS

Friday, March 4
Pizza Dinner at 6 pm.

Between our 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat &
6:30 pm Family Shabbat Service
Adults \$10 / children \$5

Reservations due Thursday, March 3 at noon.

Wednesday, March 23
PURIM!

Pizza dinner at 5:45 pm
Shpiel begins at 6:30 pm.
Adults \$10 / children \$5

Reservations due Monday, March 21 at noon.

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Religious School 12:30pm Men of CBT to CJM	28 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	29 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	30 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	31 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	1 5:30pm - 7:30pm Shabbat services tonight at Heather Farms	2 Parashat Shmini 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Kurtis Enloe
3 Hadassah's Israel Education Day Religious School 9:30am - 2:30pm Hadassah program @ Isaiah - How to Talk About Israel 10:00am - 12:00pm K'Tantan - Passover 10:00am - 11:30am Walking In the Valley of the Shadow - And Not Being Afraid 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts 2:30pm Sisterhood to Leshar - ART	4	5 NO Religious School 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/Cantor Chabon 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	6 NO Midrasha 10:00am Open Bridge	7 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	8 Midrasha Spring Retreat 6:30pm Shabbat Service	9 Parashat Tazria 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Yasha Akkerman 6:30pm The Jewish Night of Why
10 Midrasha Spring Retreat Religious School 9:00am - 12:00pm Passover in the Gift Shop 10:00am Sisterhood to the de Young 1:00pm - 3:00pm Gardening with Nature in Mind	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 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 7:00pm Midrasha BOD meeting	13 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	14 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga! 7:00pm Men of CBT Poker Night	15 6:00pm - 7:15pm Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm Shir Joy - Shabbaton w/Joey Weisenberg	16 Parashat Metzora 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 9:30am Shabbat Service @ B'nai Shalom w/Joey Weisenberg 12:30pm Kiddush Luncheon & Learning at CBS 7:00pm Havdalah at CBS w/Joey Weisenberg
17 Religious School - Passover Program 9:00am - 12:00pm Passover in the Gift Shop 10:00am - 12:00pm Gan Gani - Passover 10:00am K'Tantan 10:00am Men of CBT Schmeer & Schmooze 10:00am Social Action Mtg 5:00pm RS Art & Wine Fundraiser	18 6:30pm General Board Meeting	19 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/Cantor Chabon 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 6:30pm Book Sisters 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	20 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha (7th Grade Open House)	21 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	22 1st Night of Passover 7:30pm Shabbat Service	23 2nd Night of Passover 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 6:30pm Community Seder
24 (no school) 3rd Night of Passover	25 4th Night of Passover	26 5th Night of Passover 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	27 6th Night of Passover 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	28 7th Night of Passover 6:00pm - 7:00pm Yoga!	29 (Office Closed) 5:30pm Yizkor 6:30pm Shabbat Service - 5th graders participating	30 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan - Aimee Golant speaking 8:00pm Cantor Chabon @ Freight & Salvage!

THANK YOU MAYIM VOLUNTEERS!






Artist in Residence: April 15-16, 2016

Joey Weisenberg
Fill Your Heart with Song



Congregations B'nai Shalom and B'nai Tikvah are delighted to bring Joey Weisenberg to Walnut Creek. Joey is a powerful force in the Jewish music scene, nationally and internationally. His book *Building Singing Communities* speaks to the hunger for musical inspiration in Jewish communities across the denominations.



Please join us for an amazing & joyful Shabbaton!

Friday, April 15th	7:30pm	Congregation B'nai Tikvah Friday night services
Saturday, April 16th	9:30am	Congregation B'nai Shalom Shabbat morning services
	12:30pm	Kiddush Luncheon and Learning at CBS
	7:00pm	Seudah Shlishit (third meal of Shabbat) & Havdalah at CBS

All are welcome.

Congregation B'nai Shalom
74 Eckley Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.934.9446
office@bshalom.org
www.bshalom.org

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
25 Hillcroft Way
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
925.933.5397
judyblum@tikvah.org
www.tikvah.org

अग्निदेवमन्दिरम्


AIMEE GOLANT

**ART FOR PRAYER AND PEACE:
A BRIDGE TO ONENESS**

Recently endorsed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Aimee Golant has been voted Best Jewish Artisan Craftsperson in San Francisco since 2010 by the readers of "J. Jewish News Weekly." Some of Aimee's notable artistic projects include creating the crown for the Women's Torah Project, creating mezuzahs for two Space Shuttle missions, the Jewish Museum of New York, and the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. She has been honored with a NICHE award and the Golden Hammer award, and has created numerous items for various projects and fundraisers.


Aimee lives in San Francisco with her husband David Casella and son Kaleb. Visit Aimee's website (aimeegolant.com) for more about her accomplishments and a look at her evocative artwork and ideas.

Aimee will be speaking about a proposed exhibit she calls "Art for Prayer and Peace: A Bridge to Oneness," inspired by her experience of the universality of diverse religious concepts.



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016
AT THE 10:00 AM MINYON SERVICE



ALL IN THE JEWISH FAMILY

One more class to explore Interfaith topics with Dawn Kepler, Rabbi Gutterman & Cantor Chabon
PATRILINEAL DESCENT, REFORM JUDAISM & THOSE OTHER JEWS Sunday, March 13, 2016
 (see our website for class details)

Class is from 10 to 11:30 am. 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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BECOME A READING BUDDY

May 4, 2016

In just one hour a week you can help a student learn to love reading. Take part in this rewarding tikkun olam program.

Join the Jewish Coalition for Literacy at the tutor training on Wednesday, May 4 from 1-4 pm.

Register at jclread.org or contact Judy Pam-Bycel, JCL EB Program Director, jpbysel@jcrc.org or [510 809-4904](tel:5108094904).

Tutoring will begin in the summer or fall after you are fingerprinted by Mt. Diablo Unified School District.



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PREMIER PROPERTIES

SAVE THE DATE

Diablo Valley Hadassah Presents

HOW TO TALK ABOUT ISRAEL:
Let's Have a Conversation

Sunday, April 3, 2016
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Temple Isaiah, Lafayette

Exciting day filled with speakers, workshops, and Israeli lunch

Invitation and more details to follow.

Sponsored by: Diablo Valley Hadassah
Co-sponsored by: Israel and World Jewry Committee of Temple Isaiah

Please contact Margalit Ir for co-sponsoring opportunities at margalit.a.ir@gmail.com or 510-680-0276



CBT IS ALSO A CO-SPONSOR OF THIS EVENT.

Living Sustainably is Living Jewishly Gardening with Nature in Mind



Join renowned environmental educator, Judy Adler, for a three-session class this spring. Participants will learn ecologically-based and habitat-friendly gardening skills and the public policy implications of these practices. A different topic will be addressed at each session and relevant elements of Jewish tradition will be highlighted.

Classes will be held on **Sundays from 1-3 PM** at Judy's Demonstration Gardens in Walnut Creek

Sessions

Participants are encouraged to attend all three

- 1) "Getting to our Roots" What is sustainability - 4/10/16
- 2) "Doing the Math" Getting beyond the drought-tolerant landscape - 5/15/16
- 3) "Plant Parenthood" Plant and pollinator relationships - 5/22/16

To register: send an email to **Judith Adler** at jadlermtmama@sbcglobal.net and include your phone number and address. You will receive an email with further information.

Class size is limited so sign up promptly!

Cost: \$15 per person for all three sessions



The course is being introduced to the congregation by the Adult Education and Social Action committees



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://www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org/>



Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box in our Lobby?

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

CONTRA COSTA INTERFAITH HOUSING.

<http://ccinterfaithhousing.org>



This organization was selected by our Ritual Committee.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 71
Walnut Creek, CA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER



Led by Rabbi Gutterman

CBT SOCIAL HALL
SATURDAY, APRIL 23 6:30pm

Member Price: \$50 - Adults, \$25 - Children 4-12

Guest Price: \$60 - Adults, \$30 - Children 4-12

includes a complete Passover meal catered
by Sunrise Catering.

Choice of: brisket of beef, Mary's roasted chicken or
stuffed squash w/quinoa (GF)

Reservations due April 15.

Registration form (available on our website)
must accompany payment.

CBT Members can also sign up on line.

Ceremonial wine will be served for the Seder.
If you'd like to bring a nice bottle for dinner,
you are welcome to do so.



PASSOVER AT THE CBT GIFT SHOP

Passover begins Friday, April 22

The Gift shop will be having its Passover display
Sunday mornings, April 10 & 17, 9 a. to noon.

Items on display include:
paper plates and napkins

Seder plates

Haggadot

matzah holders

candles and holders

story books and cookbooks

Elijah and Miriam cups

and much more.....(but no food)



Come visit our beautiful store in the Temple lobby-

Irene and Susan look forward to helping you!

Supporting the Gift Shop
supports YOUR synagogue!