



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

May / June 2016

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 35 Iss. 5

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



It's perhaps the greatest understatement of 5776 to say that it's been an eventful season, both at CBT, our spiritual home, and here at Michael's and my home. As you're no doubt aware by now, we were in the waiting phase of the adoption process when the proverbial call came that we had a match! We quickly made plans to meet in the birth mother's home state, and all decided to go forward with the placement. Returning to California we thought we would have until at least the end of March to before returning for the baby's birth. But as we were soon to discover, these little ones are full of surprises! Mere days later, we found ourselves hurrying back to Texas. On March 21, the day after he was born, we met our baby boy. He is alert, peaceful (much of the time!) and a source of joy and fulfillment beyond words. Jonah has made us a family.

Looking back on the past few years, I always hoped that we would have our child by Passover... or in time for the next Passover. The transmission of our central narrative, the very human themes of enslavement, freedom, dignity and empathy, is made all the more powerful through the commandment that we tell all this to our children. And they are all our children, whether our actual members of our family or not. We help them find their place in the story. And they help us find ours.

Then too, there is what happens immediately after that momentous crossing of the Red Sea. The Israelites take one look around, realize their lives are no longer bound to servitude and routine, and wail aloud their discontent and fear. I never thought I would find parallels between that dynamic and the initial days and weeks of parenthood. (Though luckily only one of us is wailing aloud so far!) I look around this brand new landscape and am filled with questions. Is he eating the right amount? What did that new noise mean? Is he okay? Is he happy? *Why can't I get the car seat out of the car?!* What lies ahead for this sweet boy, and how will we navigate all the passages to come?

Over and over, I've been told that the hours may pass slowly, but this time goes by in the blink of an eye. I remind myself to inhabit each moment fully as best I can, to treasure the subtle growth each day brings, and to be truly present with and for this little one. These strivings represent Jewish values that are alive and well for all of us in the weeks following Passover. This season is known as the counting of the Omer, during which we say a blessing each day and pause to take note of where we find ourselves on the historical and contemporary routes from our initial steps towards freedom to the revelation of Torah at

continued on page 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte



Frank Talk... and some amazing opportunities: All part of Tikvah 2.0.

In the last issue of Tikvah Talk, I shared how our membership has declined over the past several years. Our high was 353 member units in 2013 and our low is, well, now at 309 member units. Recall that a member unit is essentially a household with any members in that household comprising the member unit. So there's the frank talk on membership. Later on I'll share with you what your Board of Directors is doing to turn the tide.

As you might imagine, our membership decline translates to an income decline since the vast majority of our income comes from our membership commitments. Are they directly proportional? Of course not. B'nai Tikvah will never turn away members who cannot afford to pay our full membership commitment; however, we're hearing from more and more of you that the membership commitment is too much. Touchy (and a little scary) subject for me to write about? You bet. But you deserve to understand our situation so that you can help us create a vibrant and sustained community.

In the coming months, we will host a series of meetings open to the entire membership. These meetings will start with our annual congregational meeting on Sunday May 22 at 9:45 am and continue roughly each quarter for you to come and talk with us about our community challenges and opportunities. Driving toward a sustainable synagogue is something we all want; we just need to figure out how to make it happen. At the May 22 Congregational meeting – which I urge you all to attend – we'll discuss our 2016 / 2017 budget that shows a deficit.

Know that your Board of Directors and I have done a lot of work paring this deficit down as best we can; however, without drastic action (or maybe me tripping over a few bags of money), a budget deficit is what we're facing. Rest assured that B'nai Tikvah is very solvent with sufficient cash reserves in the bank. Our deficit is more than an order of magnitude less than our reserves. Still no organization can survive with consistent deficits and we are considering a number of alternatives – from mild to wild – to close the gap early in our fiscal year which is June through July.

OK...Enough frank talk, let's get to the good, no the great stuff happening in our community!

In April, Rabbi Gutterman and her husband Michael became proud parents by adopting a little boy, Jonah. We're thrilled for

continued on page 5

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

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SHALOM CONNECTION

Mazel tov to

- Donna and Barry Brian on the birth of grandson, Sawyer Bronson Pan
- Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman and Michael Simons on the birth of their son, Jonah Daniel Simons

Have something to share? Please let us know!

Email judyblum@tikvah.org.



Preparing for the Motzi at April's Family Shabbat in the park.

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.

www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org/



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 the 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>.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Our Sisterhood Shabbat was well attended with several people reading and many people opening the Ark. Two members of the FUNDaFIELD team spoke about the women in Uganda that have been helped by selling paper beads. Before the women started making beads, they made gravel from rocks for \$1 a day. Making beads is bringing them \$5 a day, which is enough to live on. Sixty women and their children have been relocated from a displaced person's camp to their own homes. Both of the team members, who are students at Monte Vista High School, spoke about visiting the families in Uganda. I think everyone was impressed by the presentation and uplifted to be part of such a wonderful organization.

Our Sisterhood woman of the year presentation was made the following Shabbat to Julia Babka-Kurzrock. An excerpt from those remarks is below.

May

17 (Tuesday): Book Sisters, 6:30 pm.
"The Pacific and other Stories" by Mark Helprin
Leslie Rupley is leading the discussion. Dinner will be catered by Moruccis. \$10 each. RSVP to Rayna.

June

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

Our Sisterhood woman of the year deserves this award on so many levels but there are two I want to highlight. The first one will pull at your heartstrings.... It did all of ours as we watched it go on.

A few years ago one of our dear members, a single parent, passed away suddenly, leaving a 17-year-old daughter alone. The family dynamics were very delicate and the daughter's legal guardian was in Southern California. How could a high school senior, so integrated in her school, her synagogue, her life here, suddenly get uprooted and move? She couldn't. Our special woman jumped in, took the young woman into her heart and home, rearranging her own family and became her legal guardian. Needless to say, there were court visits, attorneys, sleepless nights, and underneath it, a 17 year old missing her loving father. This woman helped Natalie get through a very rough time. And because Natalie was a senior, this woman helped her select a college and moved her there. Now, 3 years later, she is still "acting mother" to Natalie.

Last year this woman, after playing a Podcast in her classroom, contacted Mayim Bialik and asked her to come to CBT and speak. With her persistence and passion, she managed to get Mayim's speaking fee to become affordable. In times when it's hard to round up volunteers, she assembled some 40 volunteers to make this event a fabulous success! The Red Carpet Evening with Mayim Bialik was an event above and beyond anything we have done before.

There are many other things she has done that are special. She's our 6th grade teacher, she tutors B'nai Mitzvah students privately, she is the Secretary on our Board of Directors, she and Bonnie (Tornheim) have added a number of membership events to our calendars for all different ages. You name it, she seems to be involved in it. All this while keeping up with her family and other commitments.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Jason Pollack, Interim Co-Director of Education



Shalom, B'nai Tikvah! This is a fitting way to begin this article, for it is saying "Hello" and "Goodbye" from me and Leeaht as we come to the end of our tenure as Interim Directors of Education here at CBT. She and I have had a great time leading our school, and have felt

honored to have served our community in this way. Thank you for your trust, support and assistance during this school year.

I want to share some of the highlights from our school over the past few months. First, a big Mazel Tov to the 7th grade and teachers Devra Aarons and that other guy (Jason Pollack) for making this year's Mishloach Minot a special event. Mishloach Minot, a mitzvah for Purim, is the making of gift baskets with goodies such as hamentashen, tea, chocolate for special people in one's lives and community. In the past, the 7th graders had made Mishloach Minot baskets and given them to anonymous people at the Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living. This is a fine thing to do, but Leeaht had the idea to make it more personal to the community of B'nai Tikvah. As such, we decided to give baskets to the elders of CBT, the long-standing older members of our congregation. Nineteen baskets by the 7th grade students were delivered by the parents and teachers of the 7th grade from Concord and Pleasant Hill, to Danville and San Ramon, from right here in Walnut Creek, to Oakland. The response to these baskets was tremendous. We received handwritten thank-you cards from four different members, phone calls of thanks, even a thoughtful donation from one appreciative couple. One person, Jeanne Kaiser, was so moved by receiving the basket that she decided to come to our school on a Sunday to personally thank the 7th graders for their kind and thoughtful work - this was a big effort on her part! It was very touching to see this meeting of young people being recognized for their kind efforts from an elder, two/three generations their senior. For me, it is a strong reminder that small acts of kindness and thoughtfulness, mitzvot, can have a great impact.



Other highlights include the great work Julia Babka-Kurzrock does for our school by bringing films from the Contra Costa Jewish Film Festival to our students. This year, instead of having to go to a theater, we had two films shown at our school campus here at CBT. The first film was "David," and the second film was "Little Heroes." Both were well received by students, staff and parents who came to see the films. Popcorn was served and a great time was had by all.

continued on page 5

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Mimi McCullough Tullis
Christine and Murray Sheldon

In memory of Harry Rattner

In memory of Ben Medvin
Deborah and Alvin Medvin

In memory of Milton Leon
Sandra Leon

In memory of William Saltikov
Kimberly and Brian Zagon

In memory of Shirley Maslin
Marcia and Harvey Maslin

In memory of Virginia E. Becker

In memory of Paul Arnon Klein
Susan and John Klein

In honor of Amira and Joe Able's
50th Wedding Anniversary
Sharon and Frank Krhoun

In memory of Stella Malkova

In memory of Ada Yetskaya
Mrs. Rakhil Sadetskiy

In memory of Lillian Kornhauser

In memory of Edgar Kornhauser
Nancy & Norman Friedman

In memory of Charles Wechsler
Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler

In memory of Renee Denwitt
Nancy and Arthur Solomon

RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Sydney Brandeis' Bat
Mitzvah
Judith and Peter Brandeis

In honor of Noah Lichtenstein's Brit
Milah

Dr. Stuart Zangwill

In honor of Micah's Bar Mitzvah

Nessa and Robert Wilk

In memory of Hermina Davidson

Diane and Victor Leventhal

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In honor of Micah's Bar Mitzvah

Nessa and Robert Wilk

In memory of Gussie Tama

Sharon and Hugh Tama

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

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*Marjorie and Cantor Stephen
Richards*

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Lynette and Alan Scharlach

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In memory of Rochelle Nadjari Tepper

Zaffy Welch

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Mary Kimball Sutherland

In memory of Robert Salusky

*Monica Salusky and John
Sutherland*

In support of our Social Action
programs

Dr. Robert Greenberg

In memory of Ruth Schottland

*Rachel Van Cleave and Joseph
Schottland*

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Jean Hill

In memory of Ted Kaplan

Rayna and Richard Ravitz

In memory of Robert Kemna

Gloria Kemna

THE B'NAI TIKVAH GIFT SHOP

has many wonderful gifts for sale if you need a present!

Do you or a loved one need a tallis?

Irene has the best selection in Contra Costa County—if not the entire East Bay!

Why buy on line when you can touch it and try it on?!

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

Gift Shop shopping is doing a mitzvah! Shop B'nai Tikvah first!

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH

continued from page 1

Mount Sinai. I hope that this time leading up to Shavuot will allow us to slow our pace and take purposeful, intentional measure of our days. The composer of Psalm 144 wrote that we are like a breath, and our days like a passing shadow. In the blink of an eye indeed. Whether in spite or because of this, may we all find substance, meaning and the blessing of new paths ahead... today and each day forward.

Jonah's Brit Milah was celebrated privately at the hospital on his eighth day. We will be having a naming ceremony in June - date TBD -- at B'nai Tikvah, and look forward to including the congregation.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

continued from page 3

Yashe Koach and Mazel Tov! go out to the 4th, 5th and 6th graders who, over the last few months, have led services for the congregation. Each class had its own service to lead on either Friday night or Saturday morning, and they all did such a fantastic job this year. All who attended these services were very, very impressed.

I wish I had more room to write about so many other things. We have such a great school filled with amazing students, wonderful teachers and dedicated madrichim. To end, let me say, "Shalom, B'nai Tikvah," peace to us all and may we have a fine summer.

CONSUL GENERAL SCHÜLTER

Join us for Shabbat services on Friday, May 13
at 6:30 pm during which there will be a
conversation with
Consul General Stefan Schlüter,
the Consulate General of Germany
in San Francisco.

Consul General Schlüter recently spoke at the
East Bay International Jewish Film Festival.

A special oneg will follow with an
opportunity for questions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

their family and offer our heartfelt Mazel and Brucha for the joys a child brings to any couple. This has been a journey for the Rabbi and Michael and we're thrilled that it happened for them while at B'nai Tikvah.



As I mentioned in February, after 17 years as our Temple Administrator, Judy Blum is retiring at the end of May. A search committee including Judy, Chanel Benhamou, the Rabbi, Cantor and me screened a number of highly qualified candidates to replace Judy and I am pleased to welcome Amanda Radman to the B'nai Tikvah staff! Amanda, her husband Dan and their children

Julie (6) and Scott (4) moved to the Bay Area from St. Louis in December 2015 and live in Dublin. Amanda comes with a wealth of temple administrative experience including roles at Temple Israel in St. Louis and as the youth director at Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago. The search committee unanimously approved hiring Amanda and I'm looking forward to her contributions. Amanda's first week is May 2 so she and Judy will have close to a month of cross training. Please join me in welcoming Amanda to CBT! On May 27 we will honor Judy at a Shabbat Service and special Oneg. Please join us if you're able for the 7:30 pm service.

We have another new staff member joining us in July. Keren Smith is our new Director of Education. I'd like to thank Leehat Segev and Jason Pollack for serving as our Interim Co-Directors of Education for the past year. They did a terrific job of keeping our school vibrant and even introduced some new programming for our youngest future members: K'Tan Tan and Gan Gani are programs aimed at families with pre-school aged children and have flourished under Leehat and Jason's leadership. Look for additional details on Keren, Religious School information for 2016 / 2017 and more from our Education Committee Chairperson, Rebecca Bauer-Kahn.



Finally, let me highlight just a few great programs either happening soon or in the works. All of these programs are focused on appealing to a wide variety of current and potential members and / or eliminating our deficit by increasing income:

- In December, we switched on our solar system which should reduce our electricity bills about \$1,000 / month. Now you have the opportunity to add solar to your home, receive a rebate and fundraise of CBT all at the same time! Details of this exciting program are being finalized so stay tuned! Where else can you do the right thing for B'nai Tikvah, your wallet and the planet?
- Our calendar is filled with opportunities to try organic gardening, talk about Jewish beliefs on death and dying, learn self-defense the way the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) does through Krav Maga training and so much more... Take a look at the calendar on our website at Tikvah.org or look for e-mails an-

continued on page 7

CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Shalom! A big note of thanks to you, our community partners at B'nai Tikvah for your inspiring support at our annual Gala, February 20th. The theme of the evening's fundraiser was "Awesome 80's!" So many participants showed up in 80's gear, enjoyed throw-back tunes (think New Wave and Hair Bands), and got photos in front of the DeLorian. (More importantly, the evening raised funds through your generosity (Thanks again!) for Contra Costa Midrasha's scholarship fund – enabling any teen who wants to participate in our Wednesday night program, weekend retreats or teen trips to Israel. Here is an excerpt from the speeches that evening:

Havdalah is the heart and soul of Midrasha. It's Jewish magic – and our teens need it. Why? It's pretty challenging to be a Jewish teen here in Contra Costa County. Most of our teens are the minority at their school - they have to fight to get the High Holidays off, and celebrating Shabbat is rarely an option – there's just too much to do. Midrasha is the place that feeds the souls of our teens and Havdalah is the microcosm of that experience. It's a time for our teens to be separate from the rest of their secular world, to be Jewish – unapologetically – and to do so with the most amazing ruach/spirit you will ever witness.

To hear more about the impact of Midrasha on the teens who participate in it, visit CCM's Vimeo station at: <https://vimeo.com/user46169780>

Like many of you, we've been following the story of IfAmericansKnew.org, the group responsible for the anti-Israel sign on the I-680 in January. In fact, some of our teens chose to protest a presentation by their Director on March 30th at the Walnut Creek Public Library. For more information about their experiences, read the April 8th article in the J. Weekly by Hannah Rubin entitled, "Student Protester's 'scary' lesson at anti-Israel talk." (Though the headline says a lot...)

May brings Contra Costa Midrasha's annual graduation on May 25th at 7:15pm – here at B'nai Tikvah. This is an evening to celebrate our seniors and to hear their stories about the impact of Midrasha on their Jewish identities and lives during high school. B'nai Tikvah teens Kyle Zagon, Tjaden Hess, Stephanie Brooks-Manas, Lauren Raff, Danielle Goldman, Ian Jones and Robin Goodman are part of this year's graduating class. It's a very meaningful night, full of celebration and reflection. All community members are welcome and encouraged to join!

Registration for 2016-17 at CCM opens in May – enroll today via the "registration" button online at www.ccmidrasha.com. For more information or to ask questions, feel free to contact the CCM office at contracostamidra-sha@gmail.com or 925/944-4701.

We look forward to sharing graduation with you on May 25th!

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!

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.

May 15th Israel and Yom Ha'Atzmaut



Zaffy Welch

Our connection to the B'nai Tikvah family is longstanding and strong.

We joined almost at its inception, when we had our services at the old Jewish Community Center in Walnut Creek.

My daughter was in Rabbi Asher's first Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. My husband was in the first Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class in 1989. Both our son and daughter were married by Rabbi

Asher, one in Portland, Oregon and the other locally. The Rabbi and Dr. Usatin performed the bris for our grandson, Zachary, in Southern California. Rabbi Asher blessed our grandchildren when they were born and gave them their Hebrew names. He also led the services and comforted our family when my parents died.

We have many lifelong friends at B'nai Tikvah and it is my spiritual haven.

I want future congregants to have similar experiences within this synagogue for many years to come.

I feel it is my duty and pleasure to be a part of the Legacy Program, and to keep this congregation vibrant for future generations.

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 5

nouncing these programs.

- On April 30, Cantor Chabon and Lisa Zeiler performed to a sold out crowd at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley. This was the second concert the Cantor and Lisa have done and the energy in the room was palpable.

- An emerging capital campaign to reduce our mortgage which you'll be hearing more about very soon and a new push for the Create A Jewish Legacy Program.

So there it is... Frank talk and fabulous opportunities all in one newsletter!! As always, please feel free to contact me at bnai-tikvahpresident@gmail.com with questions about our temple, programming ideas or, whether you trip over that bag of money or not, ways to support and sustain our community.

PLAY BALL

Giants @ A's June 30, 7:05 pm, \$36 to CBT or CBS

The Giants are only playing in Oakland twice this season! Please join members of Congregations B'nai Tikvah and B'nai Shalom and friends for this great event! Seating is in the Plaza Outfield Section 203. If you want to sit with friends, please list their name(s).

Due to the popularity of this event, reservations will only be held for seven days unless payment is received.

Gates open at 5:30. Tickets will be available for pick up from whichever Temple Office you sent your payment to after Wednesday, June 22. For questions contact Julia Babka-Kurzrock. <http://tinyurl.com/CBTandCBSBaseball>

Orioles @ A's August 9, 7:05 pm, \$36 to CBT

Please join us and members of our community at the Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night when temple member, Leah Taylor, will be singing the national anthem! Gates open at 5:30 pm for this event, so come early to enjoy the meal and festivities. Please invite friends to join you.

As an added benefit, this year's event takes place on one of our FREE PARKING Tuesdays, so you can just drive in. No parking attendants will be at the gate.

The pregame event will take place in the Eastside Club. All participants that purchase a special ticket will receive an exclusive A's Jewish Heritage Night Fleece Blanket, as well as a falafel sandwich.

Due to the popularity of this event, reservations will be held for only seven days unless payment is received. Last call for tickets and payment is **July 1**.

<http://tinyurl.com/JewishHeritageAug9>

EARLY RISER?

Join us for Shavuot!

It is customary on Shavuot to stay up all night studying Torah as a symbol of our renewed acceptance of the covenant. In Jerusalem, people who study throughout the night make a pilgrimage to the western wall to pray the morning service immediately at daybreak. It is a spectacular site to see thousands of exhausted and exhilarated Jews marching together to greet the morning. After the morning service the entire congregation gathers for the reading of the Ten Commandments. It is truly a magnificent experience.

This year at B'nai Tikvah, we will once again draw upon that early morning magic and celebrate Shavuot at sunrise. It is incredibly powerful to come together in community when the world around you is still asleep. How much more so in honor of the Torah! We will meet at Briones Lafayette Ridge staging area on Pleasant Hill Road at 6:00 am on June 12th. We'll hike up to the gorgeous view and study some Torah together as we watch the world come alive. It promises to be a very beautiful way of celebrating Shavuot. We'll send out reminders as the date approaches, but please wear layers and good walking shoes, and bring yourself something warm to drink while we study. We are so excited to celebrate in this way together!



CHESED

Chesed is a group of CBT members who help other members of our community when they are going through a difficult time. We might drop off meals, drive to doctor appointments, help grocery shop, babysit, etc.

This is how it works: you join our email list and when a need arises, a request is sent out for help. If you are able to help, you simply sign up on a website set up for this purpose, or let me know.

More volunteers are needed!

Email jjltmclaurin@sbcglobal.net for more information.

YOM HASHOAH V'HAGEVURAH

COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLOCAUST
AND THE RESISTANCE

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2016

2:00 – 3:30 PM

TEMPLE ISAIAH, 945 RISA ROAD, LAFAYETTE

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016

7:30 – 9:00 PM

TEMPLE SINAI, WEBSTER AT 28TH, OAKLAND

Keynote Speaker – Holocaust survivor, Ben Stern

Ben Stern is a Holocaust survivor for whom the past is never past. Ben's courage, kindness, and faith remain intact, and were tested — once again — in a fiercely public battle against the Nazis in Skokie, Illinois.

jfed.org/shoah

These commemorations are made possible by a grant from the Tillie and Rene Molho Fund for Holocaust Remembrance of The Jewish Community Foundation.

Admission is free to both commemorations. For more information, contact Jessica Sterling at jessica@jfed.org or 510.809.4903.



JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE EAST BAY
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Congregation B'nai Tikvah's Adult Education Committee

Welcomes Imad Abboushi

and invites you to

ISLAM 101

Sunday, May 15 at 1 pm

Join us for an introduction to Islam class offering:

A basic presentation about Islam to discuss:

- Who the Muslims are,
- Main tenants of Faith,
- The 5 Pillars of Islam,
- Myths about Islam such as Women in Islam, Jihad....

And most important, engage in an open dialogue and get your questions answered about Islam and Muslims.

*My Heart is like a candle;
Longing to be lit.*

Rumi (Muslim Poet)



Imad Abboushi is the Outreach Director at the San Ramon Valley Islamic Center, responsible for community outreach events, classes, and relationship development with neighboring congregations of other faiths, as well as schools and organizations. He also sits on the board of "Neighbor to Neighbor Interfaith Council," a group of multiple faiths in the Bay area, dedicated to bringing neighbors closer to each other.

Mr. Abboushi was born in Jerusalem, where he attended a Catholic school, providing him an early understanding of other religions such as Christianity and Judaism. He moved to Ohio in 1981, where he attended the Ohio State University Engineering College. He later served as the Outreach Director at Noor Islamic Cultural Center in Columbus, OH. In 2011, Mr. Abboushi moved with his family to California. He currently resides in Danville, along with his wife and two daughters.



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

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

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Religious School 10:00am - 12:00pm K'Tantan - Israel & Yom Ha'Atzmaut 10:00am - 11:30am Walking In the Valley of the Shadow - And Not Being Afraid 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts 2:00pm Yom Hashoah Community Observance	2	3 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	4 10:00am Open Bridge 1:00pm - 4:00pm Jewish Coalition for Literacy 7:15pm Midrasha	5 Yom Hashoah 8:30am - 10:00am ICCCC Meeting 5:30pm - 6:30pm Krav Maga	6 Greeter - Alison 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm - 6:30pm Pizza dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service - K/1 participating!	7 Parashat Achrei Mot 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
8 (no school)	9 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm - 8:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	10 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm Midrasha BOD meeting	11 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha	12 Yom Ha'Atzmaut 5:30pm - 6:30pm Krav Maga	13 Midrasha - Senior Shabbat Dinner 6:30pm Shabbat Service	14 Parashat Kedoshim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
15 Religious School 10:00am - 12:00pm Gan Gani - Israel & Yom Ha'Atzmaut 10:00am Social Action Mtg 11:00am Mussar Group 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts 1:00pm Islam 101	16	17 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School - LAST DAY 6:30pm Book Sisters	18 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha @ B'nai Shalom	19 5:30pm - 6:30pm Krav Maga	20 6:00pm - 7:15pm Pot Luck Dinner 7:30pm Shabbat Service	21 Parashat Emor 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm - 7:00pm Lag B'Omer & Havdalah @ Sugarloaf Open Space, WC
22 Religious School - LAST DAY 9:45am Annual Meeting	23 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	24 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	25 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha Graduation!	26	27 7:30pm Shabbat Service	28 Parashat Behar 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
29	30 Memorial Day (Office Closed)	31 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah				

LAG B'OMER & HAVDALAH FOR ALL!

**SUGARLOAF OPEN SPACE, WALNUT CREEK
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 4 PM - DUSK**

**CBT invites You and Your friends to Join Us for
Lag B'Omer & Havdalah Happening.**

Some communities celebrate Lag B'Omer with bonfires to remind of us of the times that we were forbidden to light bonfires to mark the new month. Since we cannot make a bonfire, we are going to use the park's huge BBQ pit instead and enjoy a barbeque and S'mores in the spirit of L'ag B'Omer.

Walnut Creek charges \$5/person for the use of the BBQ and picnic tables. The rangers will be coming by to do a head count and collect that day so please bring \$5 per person, including children.
Watch your email for sign up details.

JOIN OUR CBT COMMUNITY FOR DINNER

Friday, May 6 Pizza Dinner at 6 pm between our 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat & 6:30 pm Family Shabbat Service.

Adults \$10 / children \$5

We invite prospective members to be our guest for dinner. RSVP to Temple office.

All reservations due Thursday, May 5 at noon.

Friday, May 20

Pot luck dinner from 6 - 7:15 pm.

Watch your email for sign up details.

JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		31 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	1 10:00am Open Bridge	2 8:30am - 10:00am ICCCC Meeting	3 5:30pm Picnic dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service @ Civic Park, Walnut Creek	4 Parashat Bechukotai 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
5 12:30pm - 3:00pm Israeli Scouts 4:30pm - 8:00pm Magical Israel @ 68 Celebration	6	7 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 7:00pm Midrasha BOD meeting 7:00pm Walking In the Valley of the Shadow - And Not Being Afraid	8 10:00am Open Bridge	9	10 6:30pm Shabbat Service & 7th grade Graduation	11 Erev Shavuot Parashat Bamidbar 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
12 Shavuot 6:00am - 7:00am Morning Hike	13 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm - 8:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	14 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters	15 10:00am Open Bridge	16	17 7:30pm Shabbat Service	18 Parashat Nasso 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
19 10:00am Social Action Mtg 11:00am Mussar Group	20	21 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	22 10:00am Open Bridge	23	24 7:30pm Shabbat Service	25 Parashat Beha'alotcha 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
26	27 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	28 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	29 10:00am Open Bridge	30 7:05pm Congregations B'nai Tikvah & B'nai Shalom go to Giants v. A's		

JOIN OUR CBT COMMUNITY FOR FAMILY SHABBAT IN THE PARK

Pack a picnic dinner and join us Friday, June 3 at Civic Park in Walnut Creek near the playground.

Arrive at 5:30 pm to relax and unwind.

Services will begin around 6:30 pm.

Watch your email for details.

Bring your friends along too!

OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Do you have several hours every Thursday or Friday to work in the Temple Office?

Knowledge of MS WORD required.

Call Judy if you are interested! 925.933.5397.

JOIN OUR YOUNG ADULT GROUP FOR HAPPY HOUR

Young Adults 20s and 30s are meeting Thursday, June 16 for Happy Hour at Tiki Tom's. Event details to come on Facebook and email.



Team Tikvah – Team of Hope

CANCER. It's a word none of us wants to hear. The unfortunate reality is that if it hasn't already, cancer will one day affect you or someone you love. We are proud that Congregation B'nai Tikvah will once again participate in **RELAY FOR LIFE**, our 16th year!

Relay is a fun-filled 24-hour event designed to celebrate survivorship and to raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. Teams of people gather and take turns walking laps around a track for a 24-hour period. Because cancer never sleeps, each team tries to keep at least one member on the track at all times.

When: 9:00 am on Saturday, July 23 to 9:00 am Sunday, July 24

Where: Martinez Junior High School, 1600 Court Street, Martinez

There will be music, food, raffles and entertainment throughout the day and on Saturday evening our team will have a special Havdalah service.

You can walk one lap. You can walk 10 laps. You can walk 100 laps.
If you like, pitch a tent on the field and spend the night.

If you're a cancer survivor, be sure not to miss the special opening lap at 9:00 am Saturday.

PLEASE JOIN OUR TEAM

If you'd like to join or make a donation to the team, you can do so at our team homepage:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=74083&pg=team&team_id=2011462

(You can also find us thru the main Relay for Life Webpage)



For any questions about Relay, contact Amy Lichtenstein @kittypurr13@gmail.com.
Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the event!!

Thank-you in advance for your support,
Bob Grossman, Martha Jensen & Amy Lichtenstein

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GAN SHALOM CEMETERY
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PREMIER PROPERTIES

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.



**A Magical Israel@68 Celebration:
A Movie, a Meal and Music**

Sunday, June 5

4:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Pleasant Hill Community Center
320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill

- Back by popular demand! The audience top-rated documentary In Search of Israeli Cuisine is a delicious blend of cookbook and travel guide!
- Special Israeli, dairy dinner catered by Kabab-Burger.
- A musical tour of Israel by The Lamah Lo Trio.

Admission: \$25.00 per person.

Registration is required as space is limited. Sign up by May 31 with your name and phone number to: directoreastbayjewishfilm@hotmail.com. See the trailer at eastbayjewishfilm.org.

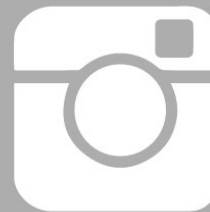
Presented by the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival, a program of the International Jewish World Cinema, in cooperation with Lehrhaus Judaica. Underwriters: The Contra Costa JCC and the Consulate General of Israel. Co-sponsors: Beth Chaim Cong., Cong. B'nai Shalom, Cong. B'nai Tikvah and Temple Isaiah.



CBTikvah & cbtyoungadults



Congregation B'nai Tikvah



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25 Hillcroft Way
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Non-Profit Org.
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

WALKING IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW AND NOT BEING AFRAID

A Project of The Gamliel Institute, Sinai Memorial Chapel, and Lehrhaus Judaica
A year of conversations around the Bay Area about everything everyone
(Jews by birth, choice, or by association) needs to know about the Jewish way of life and death.
The following classes are being held at CBT.

THE OTHER CONVERSATION

Sunday, May 1 10:00 am – taught by Sam Salkin

In this session we will explore how we talk with/to our children/spouse/partner about end of life wishes. We will share practical knowledge regarding planning a funeral, choosing a cemetery, and selecting a plot. And the all important question, financial planning (the money conversation). We will be sensitive to the questions raised by immigrant (FSU, Israel, and others) and inter-married families.

THE FINAL MITZVOT (GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER)

Tuesday, June 7 7:00 pm – taught by Edna Stewart

This session will de-mystify Advance Planning, Ethical Wills, and Ethical Dilemmas: extending life, organ donation, genetic testing, abortion, autopsy, stem-cell usage.

DYING/DEATH/BURIAL: WHAT JEWS DO

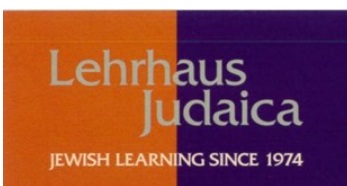
Tuesday, July 5 7:00 pm – taught by Rabbi Stuart Kelman

There are so many things we were not able to learn as children, and here is an opportunity to become confident and comfortable with: Vidui (the Jewish way of last words), Jewish laws, customs and traditions about dying; performing taharah (preparing the body); the funeral service; and issues concerning burial and cremation.

THE ART OF COMFORT

Tuesday, August 2 7:00 pm – taught by Dan Fendel

There is deep Jewish wisdom when visiting the sick ("What do I say?") and consoling the the mourners ("What do I do during shiva?") Sometimes it's not just family, but also supporting caregivers, comforting the self, and the gift of shiva and how to do it well. Yes, there is shiva etiquette.



Registration is required for all classes
through lehrhaus.org.

For questions, contact Lehrhaus Judaica
(510) 845-6420



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